Atalig is allowed to travel for heart surgery in PH. PAGE 2
Second Section 902 meeting takes place on Saipan. PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

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Wildland fires flare up

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI plunged early into the region's dry summer season with a string of wildland fire in the past few weeks, heralding the islands' transition into dry season.

This was affirmed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services in a Facebook post yesterday, which said the CNMI's dry season has officially begu.

The department's office on Tinian advises that a wildland fire at the Kastiyu Plateau, which started two days ago, does not pose an immediate threat to any structures or residents.

"We will continue to monitor its progress and movement," DFEMS said in its Facebook page.

The Tinian department strongly advises the public to stay away from the Kastiyu area.

After months of continuous rain

See FIRES on Page 4

Photo shows a brush fire, as posted on the Facebook page of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services yesterday. The post did not specify when and where the picture was taken, or who took it.

DFEMS

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH
Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signs the Autism Awareness Month proclamation yesterday at the CNMI Governor's conference room as first lady Diann Tudela-Torres watches.

See story on page 2

ERWIN ENCINARES

Judge rules against Zoning

» **Camacho: Zoning board did not follow rules in rezoning poker business**

» **Poker owner, operator allowed to operate in Kagman, Fina Sisu while case is pending**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Finding that the CNMI Zoning Board did not follow its own rules in rezoning poker businesses on Saipan, the Superior Court has stopped the board and the CNMI government from enforcing the Zoning board order denying the application of the owner of poker machines for an ex-

See JUDGE on Page 4

Shake-up at DHS goes beyond Nielsen's exit

By COLLEEN LONG and JILL COLVIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump and White House allies pressing for a harder line on immigration sped up their campaign Monday to clean house at the Department of Homeland Security with a mission far wider than just the departure of Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen.

Nielsen

The dismantling of the government's immigration leadership is being orchestrated by Trump adviser Stephen Miller, the impetus behind some of the admin-

See DHS on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
The #MyMarianas Paradise Festival concert on April 13, 2019, on Saipan will feature celebrity performers.

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WORLD
The United States designated Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps a foreign terrorist organization.

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LIFE & STYLE
Sansa Stark, Ned's eldest daughter, may yet win the Iron Throne in *Game of Thrones.*

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Local

Atalig is allowed to travel for heart surgery in PH

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has granted the unopposed request of Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig to travel to Manila in the Philippines for heart treatment.

In her order on Monday, Manglona allowed Atalig to travel to Guam on April 18 and to the Philippines on April 19.

While in the Philippines, the mayor must maintain email or telephone contact (personally or through his lawyer) with the U.S. Probation Pretrial Services Office on Saipan.

Manglona said Atalig must return to the CNMI as soon as his treatment is completed and he is cleared to travel.

Meanwhile, Efraim M. Atalig's girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, asked the court yesterday to allow her to accompany the mayor to the Philippines.

Evelyn Atalig, through counsel Steven P. Pixley, said she plans to stay with the mayor in Manila until he is released from the Asian Hospital and be able to travel back to Rota.

Evelyn Atalig said her return date is uncertain.

Pixley said the U.S. government's lawyer informed him that he would not oppose Evelyn Atalig's request.

Mayor Efraim Atalig, through counsel David Banes, informed the court that he will have heart surgery or a stent placed in his heart at the Asian Hospital.

The Ataligs have been charged jointly with wire fraud, theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, and conspiracy to commit wire fraud and federal funds theft. Each of them also faces a separate charge of false statement.

The Ataligs allegedly arranged CNMI government-funded trips to California, Palau, Guam, and Saipan under fraudulent pretenses.

The U.S. government alleged that the primary purpose of these trips was not official business but personal travel or partisan political activity, for which the Ataligs fraudulently claimed per diem and travel reimbursement.

The defendants pleaded not guilty; the trial will start on June 4.

'A complex and misunderstood disability'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The U.S. Center for Disease Control estimates that about 1 in 59 U.S. children has a "complex and not well-understood disability" that affects every ethnic group, country, and socio-economic class. CDC noted that the number pertains to children who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

To raise awareness about the issue Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signed yesterday a proclamation declaring April Autism Awareness Month.

"We want to recognize the agencies and non-government organizations that continue to put a lot of effort into assisting and advocating for members in our community that have autism," he said, speaking on behalf of the Legislature and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who was unable to join the signing due to a scheduling conflicts.

"I also want to recognize the parents of our children who have a different world that they face every day," he added.

The proclamation happens every year to raise awareness in the community about autism spectrum disorder, said CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities chair and Voices of the CNMI Saipan chapter president Efren S. Nicholas.

Nicholas gave the opening remarks before the proclamation signing yesterday.

The public is invited to participate in the Autism Society of the CNMI's annual Quiz Night at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan on April 26, 2019, from 6pm to 10pm. Quiz Night raises funds for the Autism Society of the CNMI.

The organization would also be hosting a Hotdog Walk at the Last Command Post on April 28, 2019, from 3pm to 5pm.

38th Flame Tree Arts Festival will highlight several cultures

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 38th Flame Tree Arts Festival, which starts tomorrow in Susupe, would highlight not only the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures, but also that of Korean, Japanese, and Chinese cultures, among many others.

"We are trying to showcase every culture that is here in the CNMI," said Commonwealth Council of Arts and Culture executive director Parker Yobei. "[This is so that] we can share our cultures and have an understanding of each other's culture."

He pointed out that there are some similarities among different Pacific island cultures.

The 38th Flame Tree Arts Festival will be held at the Civic Center Beach Park Canoe House in Susupe starting tomorrow, from 5pm to 10pm; 5pm to 12pm on Friday; 10am to 10pm on Saturday; and 12pm to 8pm on Sunday.

"It's like a party for artists," Yobei said, noting that the festival continues to grow.

According to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter, this year's festival will have 110 booths.

Yobei said this is similar to that of previous years—and possibly even more.

"It was almost the same, only this year we did not expect that much participation from our artists because of the recent Super Typhoon Yutu," he said. "We were really surprised that a lot of the artists came out and [participated] in the festival."

"It is a very good sign. … When we get that kind of participation, it means that we are doing something right," Yobei added.

Autopsies in Guam are being delayed

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam has experienced significant delays in autopsies and post-mortem examinations since the retirement of the island's chief medical examiner at the end of January, officials say.

The result has been delays in criminal cases and exams of people who died from natural causes, the Pacific Daily News reported Wednesday.

Post-mortem exams and autopsies must be performed on those who die within 24 hours of a hospital admission and on bodies that are to be transported off the island or cremated,

See AUTOPSIES on Next Page

JRM joins Guam government in fight vs sexual assault

Guam local and military leadership gather for a photo following a joint proclamation signing declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month at the Guam Community College in Mangilao April 8.

U.S. NAVY/JOANNA DELFIN

ASAN, Guam—Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander of Joint Region Marianas, joined Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero last April 8 to declare April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month during a joint proclamation signing at the Guam Community College in Mangilao.

The annual observance calls to end sexual violence and its harmful impact on the community, the island and the military's mission and readiness.

While the military focuses on the awareness and prevention of sexual assault through various programs, Chatfield discussed the importance of ensuring victims are cared for after their tribulation.

"I've learned that I need to place more attention on training my workforce, not just about the how to report a crime but that I need to spend even more time to prepare my workforce to make the workplace a place where a person is not re-victimized," she said. "I'm very pleased on behalf of the Department of Defense here [in] Guam to commit our resources and our support for the victims of sexual assault."

The admiral also explained the military's restricted and unrestricted lines of reporting that provide victims the opportunity to receive treatment and determine if an investigation will be open.

In fiscal year 2017, 5,277 service members filed reports of sexual assault for an incident that occurred sometime during military service, an increase of 10 percent from fiscal year 2016.

In her remarks, Leon Guerrero thanked the military for their partnership and encouraged all members of the community to take part in sexual assault prevention.

"We need to make sure we strengthen our force so we can minimize this God-awful crime against our people and our community," she said. "As governor of Guam, I am very honored to proclaim this month and make the commitment to work together to prevent sexual abuse." ***(PR)***

AUTOPSIES

From Page 2

officials said.

Grieving families can be left waiting while post-mortem exams are done by a Saipan-based pathologist who travels 136 miles (219 kilometers) to Guam and stays for only a few days at a time.

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Warrant out for two men in alleged theft

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A bench warrant has been issued for two men who were allegedly involved in a theft in Kagman back in November after they failed to show up in court.

Amado Kereman and Demson Sachuo, both 18, failed to appear before the court last Monday for a status conference.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja issued a bench warrant for both men and a bail of $1,000 was imposed, along with it.

However, Sachuo's bench warrant was held in abeyance as requested by his lawyer.

Both men have been charged with conspiracy, burglary, and theft and criminal mischief.

According to court information, police responded to a burglary in progress on Nov. 27, 2018, at 2:28am in Kagman 3, behind the CYC store.

Police identified the suspects as Kereman and Sachuo.

Kereman refused to give a statement to the police, but Sachuo allegedly admitted that it was his idea to break into a neighbor's house.

During the preliminary hearing, it was learned that Kereman allegedly conspired with Sachuo to burglarize the neighboring home while two other suspects stayed back.

The two other suspects, however, allegedly warned Kereman and Sachuo when flashing lights were seen from a distance

Sachuo told police that he and Kereman took a backpack, a small lamp, and batteries from the house.

It was learned during the preliminary hearing that other stolen items included perfume, watches, and domino chips that have yet to be recovered.

The stolen items came out to a sum of $1,258, excluding repairs to the burglarized home.

DHS

From Page 1

istration's most controversial policies, according to three people familiar with the matter. Beyond changing names and faces, Trump is considering separating migrant families at the border again, resuming the practice that drew so much outrage last year, the same people said.

The shake-up is a result of Trump's frustration with the increasing number of migrants at the border and his diminishing options for action. Court challenges, immigration laws and his own advisers have blocked several of his proposals as his re-election campaign looms. The White House has lashed out by demanding new leadership, although a new team is likely to face the same obstacles.

The head of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, L. Francis Cissna, and Homeland Security General Counsel John M. Mitnick are expected to be pushed out of their positions, the officials said. Nielsen submitted her resignation Sunday after meeting with Trump at the White House, and three days earlier, the administration withdrew the nomination of Ron Vitiello to lead Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Other longtime civil servants in agency posts are also on the chopping block, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

Adding to the turmoil, the director of the Secret Service is being forced out of his job, but that departure is said to be unrelated to the immigration upheaval.

Leading senators from both parties were displeased.

"The purge of senior leadership at the Department of Homeland Security is unprecedented and a threat to our national security," declared Democrat Dianne Feinstein of California. "President Trump is trying to remake DHS into his own personal anti-immigration agency."

Republican Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, criticized Congress for a crisis at the border but also said, "I am concerned with a growing leadership void within the department tasked with addressing some of the most significant problems facing the nation."

Nielsen has dutifully carried out the administration's orders but often had to explain to Trump the legal limits of what he wanted to do. And he didn't like it.

JUDGE

From Page 1

tension to operate in Fina Sisu and Kagman.

In a 116-page order Monday, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted a motion for preliminary injunction filed by Sin Ho Nam, Winnerslife Inc., and Dan Bi Choi LLC.

Nam, a Korean national who holds an E-2C investor status, is shareholder and director of Winnerslife Inc., which owns 19 poker machines. Dan Bi Choi LLC operates Winnerslife's poker machines. For each license, Winnerslife pays the Commonwealth a licensing fee of $12,000 each year.

Winnerslife pointed out that, if its businesses were forced to shut down, it would lose unexpired machine license fees totaling $108,558 as well as income.

Nam, Winnerslife, and Dan Bi Choi sued former Zoning Board chair Diego C. Blanco, the Zoning board, the CNMI government, and former Finance secretary Larissa Larson to stop them from enforcing Saipan Local Law 18-5, known as the Saipan Adult Machine Business Zoning Law of 2013, that intends to force poker parlors to move out of residential areas and move to a designated area.

Nam, Winnerslife, and Dan Bi Choi, through counsel Robert T. Torres, asked the court to declare that enforcing Public Law 18-5 will deprive them of legally protected interests.

The plaintiffs also asked the court to stop the enforcement of the Saipan Zoning Law and the imposition of any fines until the end of an evidentiary hearing to address the issues raised in their complaint.

The motion hearing was held in October 2018.

Christopher Timmons, chief of the Office of the Attorney General Civil Division, served as counsel for the CNMI government, Blanco, the Zoning board, and Larson.

In a separate 61-page order Monday, Camacho denied their motion to dismiss the lawsuit. The judge ruled that Nam meets the requirements to seek judicial review of the Zoning board order.

In his preliminary injunction on Monday, Camacho stopped the Zoning board and the CNMI government from enforcing their threat to stop the plaintiffs' continued operation of poker machines and imposition of fines.

The order also stops Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro from referring the case to the attorney general or having the Zoning administrator or any other agents of the Zoning board from launching an investigation.

Camacho said that, despite the Saipan Zoning Law, Winnerslife and Dan Bi Choi Inc. are allowed to operate adult gambling machine businesses at their Kagman and Fina Sisu locations during the pendency of the case, so long as they comply with all other laws related to their operations at those locations.

Camacho ordered Winnerslife to inform the court if it finds an alternative location for its use of its 19 licensed poker machines.

Nam, Winnerslife and Dan Bi Choi are not required to pay a security bond.

Camacho said this preliminary injunction does not prohibit Blanco or the subsequent chairman, the Zoning Board, the government, Larson or subsequent Finance secretary, from pursuing their counterclaims.

Camacho said plaintiffs have a strong likelihood of success on the merits of their claims.

Camacho noted that Nam is threatened with irreparable harm to his immigration status while Winnerslife is threatened with irreparable harm to its business opportunities and its idled workforce.

The judge said the impact of an injunction on the public interest tips in favor of granting an injunction because of the potential permanent loss of license revenue and the interest in ensuring the Zoning board follows the law before taking property without compensation.

Lastly, Camacho said, a serious question of law at the heart of the merits of this matter—the extent of the protections provided by NMI Constitution Article 1 Section 5—compels the status quo to be preserved until that question can be addressed by the CNMI courts.

Camacho said that, from the evidence presented, the Zoning board order was the result of an ad hoc process hastily arranged by the Zoning board after making an exhaustion argument before the District Court, rather than the result of a thorough implementation of the Saipan Zoning Law.

He said no education or outreach to impacted adult gambling machine businesses occurred, and no map showing the compliant area was published.

The Zoning board, the judge said, did not decide what the "fatal" date for a Saipan Zoning Law pertaining to license to operate extension application, was until well after that date had passed.

Camacho said the Zoning board did not determine what "information may be required by the board" to support such extension request until well after that date had passed.

He said the Zoning board developed a Saipan Zoning Law pertaining to extension application form only after that date had passed.

The Zoning board, Camacho said, never determined the methodology for amortization that applicants should employ.

Camacho said the Zoning board believed the "fatal" date was truly fatal to plaintiffs' attempt to receive an extension, and so there was nothing further to discuss before the District Court or before the Zoning board.

Camacho said either the District Court or the Superior Court could have then taken up the sole question of interpreting the language of the Saipan Zoning Law on extension application to determine what "fatal" date is sets for such extension request.

Instead, he said, the Zoning board engaged in consideration of other factors by taking in and considering plaintiffs' completed extension application forms.

The Zoning board's financial consultant, Antonio S. Muña, earlier reported that Winnerslife needed additional time to recoup its investments.

If the Zoning board was going to consider other factors, Camacho said, then it needed to consider both the information in Muna's report and the information he would have presented at the Feb. 21, 2018 Zoning board meeting.

The judge said because the Zoning board had set no amortization methodology, amortization analysis by any methodology would have been informative to the Zoning board.

Camacho said the Zoning board is required to abide by its own laws.

Had Winnerslife, DBC, and Nam been properly educated and informed with the requirement for compliance, they may have been able to move their gambling machine businesses to a compliant area, Camacho said.

If not, they may have been able to properly apply for an extension utilizing a process set up in advance by the Zoning board, he added.

FIRES

From Page 1

and what seemed to be an endless cycle of storms, typhoons, and tropical disturbances, the CNMI has transitioned into the dry season in January but with it came an increase in a number of wildland fires.

The dry season is expected to last until May.

In the past month, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services has fought and contained over seven wildland fires on the islands of Saipan and Tinian.

Fortunately, according to DFEMS spokesperson Derek Gersonde, the CNMI has a team of seasoned wildland fire fighters.

Gersonde explains that wildland fires are fought differently than structure fires, which are primarily extinguished with water.

Wildland firefighters, however, are trained to use tools such as rakes, shovels, etc., to contain wildland fires from extending further out and to make the right calls in whether the fire should be put out with water or if it's safe to let the fire continue to burn because it won't harm crops or structures and is on the path to dying out on its own.

Wildland fires are a relatively normal occurrence during the islands' dry season.

However, the department would still like encourage individuals to follow precautionary methods to help prevent wildfire fire outbreaks because the best way to battle wildland fire is to prevent them from happening. The precautionary methods are the following:

■ Individuals are encouraged not to throw cigarette or cigar butts on the ground or out of a vehicle.

■ Do not burn trash, leaves, or brush outdoors, without proper supervision.

■ Individuals should employ a 30 feet "safety zone" surrounding the home by clearing away loose grass, leaves, etc. away from the home, especially those living in a woodland area.

■ If not using a storage shed to store firewood, make sure firewood is stacked at least 20 feet.

■ Dried leaves should be raked, dead forestation limbs should be cut off, grass should be cut regularly, and dead branches that have extended over roofs should be remove.

■ Vehicle operators should avoid parking cars, trucks or recreational vehicles on dry grass or brush because exhaust systems on vehicles can reach a temperature of more than 1,000 degrees and it only takes about 500 degrees to start a brush fire in the summer.

■ Maintain a 10-foot area that is free of brush and shrubbery around barbeque grills and propane tanks.

■ Do not leave a grill unattended and when finished, place ashes in a bucket and soak them in water until completely cooled. Keep a shovel, bucket of water, fire extinguisher, or other fire suppression tools on hand in case of emergency.

■ Lastly, brief children of the importance of not playing with fire, especially in grassy areas because fire can spread quickly and children need to be informed of the potential threat.

For more information or tips, feel free to call the department at 664-9004/3 or visit the nearest DFEMS station.

Lawsuit seeks to stop Managaha concession deal

A losing bidder is suing to stop the Managaha Island concession deal between the Department of Public Lands and Triple J.

U-Top Investment (Saipan) Inc., through counsel Robert T. Torres, asked the Superior Court to declare DPL's award of the Managaha concession deal to Triple J as unlawful and to set it aside.

The lawsuit also seeks a court injunction against DPL Secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo from awarding the concession agreement.

Judge Joseph N. Camacho set a status conference on April 16, at 1:30pm.

All Superior Court judges, except Camacho, recused from presiding over the case.

Teregeyo, DPL, and the CNMI government, through the Office of the Attorney General, sought to have the lawsuit dismissed.

Assistant attorney general Kastle Lund-Turner argued that U-Top does not have a standing to raise a claim, the suit deprives the court of jurisdiction, and that the company "fails to state a claim on which relief can be granted."

In U-Top's complaint, Torres asked the court to declare that DPL's and/or Teregeyo's failure to have an administrative procedure for addressing disputes violates a law.

Torres asked the court to declare that any award using the request for proposal in this case, as applied by DPL, would be unlawful.

"Can DPL do whatever it wants with public land however it wants to? No," said Torres, citing precedent that states that "DPL is specifically not empowered to act within the free market without restriction."

Yet, Torres said, in seeking out a new concession agreement for Managaha, DPL claimed to be a market participant, failed to follow its own law, and even refused to say what law it was following.

DPL solicited proposals in June 2018 for a Managaha Island master concession operator through a request for proposals.

U-TOP and Triple J submitted a proposal. On Jan. 24, 2019, DPL informed U-Top that the company lost the bid.

Torres said the DPL notice—a letter—did not inform U-Top if any award had been made and why U-Top was not awarded the deal.

Torres said that, on behalf of U-Top, he wrote to Teregeyo last Jan. 29 protesting U-Top's loss.

He also requested records about the process followed by DPL in its non-award to U-Top and award to Triple J, score sheets and notes from the individual evaluators.

Torres said Teregeyo responded by letter last Feb. 8, notifying him that materials responsive to U-Top's request were available for inspection and copying.

Torres said Teregeyo also stated that U-Top's protest will be addressed separately at a latter date but she was silent as to the DPL procedure on how to address the protest.

The lawyer said that last Feb. 14, Teregeyo wrote a letter to him responding to U-Top's protest for non-award. He said Teregeyo asserted that DPL did not act as a regulatory body in issuing the RFP and that DPL was not engaged in procurement.

Torres said Teregeyo's Feb. 14 letter states that "both proposals were evaluated using the same evaluation methodology and instruments."

Torres said the completed evaluation forms are not consistent amongst each other in their format, recitation of the proposal requirements, or scoring methodology for the evaluation requirements.

He said Teregeyo stated that U-Top's proposal was technically non-responsive because material information was provided in a foreign language and could not be evaluated.

Torres said Teregeyo also stated that DPL regulations do not provide an administrative procedure for disputes regarding its management and disposition of public lands and thus there is no basis for U-Top's protest.

Torres said DPL is required by statute to have administrative policies, procedures, and controls related to public land that ensure that public land is used in an efficient and objective manner.

Torres said DPL does not remit concession fees to the Marianas Public Lands Trust.

The lawyer said U-Top promised to pay $360,000 in annual rental for each year of the five-year term of the Managaha concession.

He said Triple J proposed $400,000 annual rental amount for each year of the five-year term of the Managaha concession.

However, Torres pointed out, U-Top proposed to save DPL approximately 50 percent in reimbursement expenditures, totaling approximately $160,000 per year, making the total value to DPL approximately $520,000.

He said U-Top proposed a 5 percent Business Gross Revenue, as did Triple J, but Triple J proposed achieving a higher revenue than U-Top.

However, Torres said, based on the historical performance of Managaha concessionaire Tasi Tours, Triple J's higher revenue projection was not reasonable and achievable.

Torres said none of DPL's communication to U-Top clearly stated that U-Top was not awarded because it was outscored in the evaluation process.

DPL awarded the concession to Triple J last Jan. 24. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

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Scheduled power interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

- **Friday, April 12, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 2 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Garapan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Beach Road, Garapan (Tony Roma's Restaurant to Cha Bakery)
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Conduct maintenance of the Feeder 2 distribution circuit
- **Sunday, April 14, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 2 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Quarter Master Road
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Quarter Master and Beach Road, Oleai
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: S-12
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Conduct maintenance of the Feeder 2 distribution circuit

The purpose of the scheduled power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from Primary Source Electric to perform maintenance on two concrete poles along Beach Road, Garapan and Beach Road, Oleai village areas.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (hftps://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

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JRM commander briefs Japan vice admiral

U.S. NAVY/KENJI YAGI

Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas, left; Vice Adm. Tatsuhiko Takashima, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Fleet Submarine Force commander, center; and Rear Adm. Jimmy Pitts, commander, Submarine Group 7 meet at the JRM headquarters in Asan on April 8.

Vice Adm. Tatsuhiko Takashima, commander, Fleet Submarine Force for Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force, arrives at the quarterdeck of the submarine tender *USS Emory S. Land* for a scheduled tour. U.S. NAVY/MCS2 RICHARD A. MILLER

U.S. NAVY/MCS1 TIMMY WAKEFIELD

Japan Maritime Self Defense Force commander, Submarine Fleet Force Vice Adm. Tatsuhiko Takashima tours the Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific Det. Guam firefighting facility in Piti last April 8.

U.S. NAVY/ALANA CHARGUALAF

Capt. Jeffrey Grimes, commanding officer, U.S. Naval Base Guam, center, speaks with Vice Adm. Tatushiko Takashima, commanding officer, Fleet Submarine Forces, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, during an office call at the NBG headquarters in Santa Rita on April 8.

Cmdr. Andrew Maurice, repair officer aboard the submarine tender *USS Emory S. Land* and chief electronics technician Enrique Camacho brief Vice Adm. Tatsuhiko Takashima, commander, Fleet Submarine Forces for Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force, during a guided tour of the ship's sail shop. U.S. NAVY/MCS2 RICHARD A. MILLER

ASAN, Guam—Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander of Joint Region Marianas, received Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Vice Adm. Tatsuhiko Takashima, commander of Fleet Submarine Force, and Rear Adm. Jimmy Pitts, commander of Submarine Group 7 at the JRM headquarters in Asan last April 8.

Chatfield, along with other Navy and Marine Corps leadership, briefed Takashima on Department of Defense capabilities progress toward the Marine relocation under the Defense Policy Review Initiative on the island and the strategic maritime importance of the region.

"This visit to Joint Region Marianas by Vice Adm. Takashima demonstrates our continued partnership with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force," said Chatfield. "Our alliance is critical to our ability to safeguard the region and ensures we will continue to have a free and open Indo-Pacific."

Chatfield also discussed the collaborative efforts of our partners in maintaining peace and stability in the region, and a mutual interest in a rules-based international order where all nations can develop together through free and fair economic activity.

During the visit, Takashima viewed U.S. ships, facilities, and sites on island including ship repair, quality-of-life facilities for submariners and partnership opportunities in the region.

"Our visit to Joint Region Marianas was very helpful in maintaining our alliance and gaining a better understanding of the United States' maritime capabilities for our nations," said Takashima. "The ability to keep an open discussion of our partnership activities and national defense objectives is vital to our entire region." ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P.O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-018

Koa Lane 6-Inch Waterline Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Koa Ln Waterline Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new 6-inch waterline main and 2-inch service line; connection to the existing water main; installation of gate valve assembly, flush hydrants, air release valves, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by ***Saipan PL 19-23, 19-24, 19-27 and 20-26***.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $150.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-018, Koa Lane Waterline Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered**.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater Acting Chief Engineer via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Birhen Martinez, Water Division, Junior Engineer via email birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-19-004

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF DIESEL GENERATING SETS FOR THE WATER SYSTEM MITIGATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning for the Water System Mitigation Project for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and CUC.

Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-19-004, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Diesel Generating Sets for the Water System Mitigation Project"*** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 16, 2019**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 3, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Celebrity performers at #MyMarianas Paradise Festival

The #MyMarianas Paradise Festival concert on April 13, 2019, on Saipan will feature celebrity performers from several Asia countries.

Dancer Kenichi Ebina of Japan captured the winning title in Season 8 of America's Got Talent with his performance technique.

Ulala Session, composed of members Seung-il Kim, Myung-hoon Kim, Do-won Choe, and Jun-seok Ha, rose to fame as winner of the 2011 competition "Superstar K 3" on Mnet, the South Korean pay television music channel. The group also performed at the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games K-pop Concert. Huk Gak took the championship title of "Superstar K 2" in 2010.

Singer Yixin Wang of China will also perform.

"It's going to be a star-studded event this week in the Marianas, and we are looking forward to welcoming these guests and their fans to Saipan," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We are looking forward to presenting a spectacular—and best of all, free—concert for the community."

The #MyMarianas Paradise Festival concert will be held from 5pm to 9pm at Civic Center in Susupe, in conjunction with the 38th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

The Flame Tree Arts Festival is Micronesia's longest-running arts and culture festival and will feature live performances, artwork and crafts, food sales, and more. From traditional to contemporary, various art forms will demonstrated and celebrated, including performing arts, visual arts, handicrafts, culinary arts, and more. In addition to a large main stage, his year's festival will also feature a second, acoustic stage with more performances.

The event is also supported by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"On behalf of our members, HANMI is very pleased to collaborate with the MVA and the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs in make this mega-event available for our visitors and our community members," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "Our goal is to ensure the message gets out through as many media outlets as possible that the Marianas is welcoming, beautiful, and a wonderful paradise for everyone."

Visitors to the festival may use the T Galleria courtesy shuttle bus and disembark at Saipan World Resort, immediately adjacent to the festival grounds. The shuttle stops at T Galleria in Garapan, as well as major hotels.

The MVA is also arranging for media from South Korea, China, and Japan to cover the concert, the Flame Tree Arts Festival, and other attractions during the week.

Additional sponsors for the concert include Hard Rock Café Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Kensington Hotel Saipan.

Flame Tree Arts Festival sponsors this year are Bridge Capital, T Galleria by DFS, Bank of Guam, IT&E, Marpac, 4ever CNMI, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

For more information, visit The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarians.com. ***(MVA)***

Boy band Ulala Session of South Korea will perform at the #MyMarianas Paradise Festival on April 13, 2019, on Saipan. MVA

Japanese performance artist Kenichi Ebina, winner of the 8th season of America's Got Talent, will perform at the #MyMarianas Paradise Festival on April 13, 2019, on Saipan. MVA

Yixin Wang of China will perform at the #MyMarianas Paradise Festival on April 13, 2019, on Saipan. MVA

Singer Huh Gak of South Korea will perform at the #MyMarianas Paradise Festival on April 13, 2019, on Saipan. MVA

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Second Section 902 meeting takes place on Saipan

U.S. federal team in the CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Last week in the CNMI, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres hosted Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs, and a federal delegation for the second meeting in a formal Section 902 Consultation process in regard to the Department of Homeland Security's review of existing parole policies related to tourism.

"We appreciate our federal partners for taking the time to come all the way from Washington, D.C. to discuss critical issues that affect our economic viability and tourism industry. During this second round of talks, our CNMI team invited our local Legislature, law enforcement officials, tourism industry leaders, and healthcare providers to discuss further collaboration with our federal partners," said Torres.

"I am pleased that my federal colleagues from the departments of Homeland Security, State, Defense, and the Office of Management and Budget were able to meet in the CNMI as we collectively discussed federal parole policies," said Domenech.

Following the 902 Consultation and meetings on Saipan on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, the federal delegation also met with officials on Tinian.

The 902 consultation process is authorized by Section 902 of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and codified in 48 U.S.C. Section 1801, which defines the unique relationship between the CNMI and the United States.

In response to a formal request from the CNMI government on Oct. 19, 2018, the Section 902 consultation process was invoked to discuss discretionary parole policies.

President Donald J. Trump appointed Domenech to be the federal government's representative on the panel.

The first meeting of this particular 902 consultation took place in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 28, 2019.

Domenech and the federal team anticipate providing a report to Torres by April 21, 2019. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator — Janice E. Castro, Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: April 9, 2019

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a consistency determination request from the United States Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding a proposed rulemaking on the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (RIN 06448-B178). More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at:

https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/BI78-CZMA-letter-to-CNMI_20190325.pdf.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for seven (7) days, starting on April 10, 2019 and ending on April 17, 2019, in order to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: MARGARITA B. SEMAN, Deceased) Civil Action No. 09-0273

NOTICE OF HEARING ON MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE ADMINISTRATOR

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: MARGARITA B. SEMAN, DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of VIVIAN SEMAN TAITANO to be substituted as the new appointed Administratrix for the Estate of Margarita B. Seman, deceased, will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 25th day of April, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 3rd day of April, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court

/s/ Judge Joseph N. Camacho

Rosalyn Castro Quintanilla
P.O. Box 5087 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone No.: 670-287-9038

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of: EQC – 2/24/2007, ZQC – 11/12/2009, ZQC – 11/12/2009, Minor Children) FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0072

By: Rosalyn Castro Quintanilla, Petitioner

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 29th day of April, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Courtroom MBP, before the Honorable Judge Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 8th day of February, 2019.

By: Patrick V. Diaz,
Deputy Clerk of Court

Roger Thompson
One Broadway 391 Tinian MP
788-0295

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROGER THOMPSON Petitioner vs. COMPONG THOMPSON Respondent TO: COMPONG THOMPSON) FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0170

SUMMONS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Roger Thompson whose mailing address is ONE BROADWAY 391 TINIAN MP as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 9th day of April, 2019.
/s/ Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
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Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator — Janice E. Castro, Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

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DATE: April 9, 2019

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a consistency determination request from the United States Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding the Bigeye Tuna Catch and Allocation Limits for Pelagic Longline Fisheries in U.S. Pacific Island Territories (XRIN 0648-XG925). More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at:

https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2019-03-27-CZM-MP-Proposed-2019-Territorial-BET-Limits-0648-XG925.pdf.

A draft environmental assessment can also be accessed at the following link:
https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2019-03-27-Draft-EA-Territorial-BET-Limits-for-CZM-Review-0648-XG925.pdf.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on April 10, 2019 and ending on April 25, 2019, in order to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Early Intervention Services — "The key to the Future"

INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that will hold its ICC meeting on Friday, April 12, 2019 from 9:00am to 11:00am, at the Pacific Island's Club, Charley's Cabaret. This meeting is open to the public; interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- Meeting Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of the Agenda
- Review Minutes
- SSIP On-going Activities
- Open Discussion
- Meeting adjourned

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call 664-4814. Several days' notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/
Margaret Aldan
Chairwoman

/s/
Robin L. Palacios
Interim Coordinator
Early Intervention Program

Paid for by IDEA, Part C Funds.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-JUDICIARY-02

SUBMISSION DATE: May 10, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ELEVATOR REPAIRS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

US Naval Hospital Guam to conduct readiness exercise

AGANA HEIGHTS, Guam—The U.S. Naval Hospital Guam will conduct a readiness exercise on April 29, from noon to 4pm, to ensure contingency requirements are up to date.

USNH Guam emergency department will remain open during the date and time indicated. The public should not be alarmed if they see or hear activities associated with the exercise. ***(PR)***

Guam governor to deliver State of the Island Address

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Gov. Lou A. Leon Guerrero will make her State of the Island Address tomorrow, April 11, at the Guam Congress building in Hagåtña. The event starts promptly at 6:30pm. The address will highlight her first 100 days in office.

Watch the speech live online via the Guam Legislature Media YouTube channel or the PBS Guam YouTube channel. You can also watch live on the Guam Legislature Channel (GTA 21, Docomo 117/60.4) or via the PBS-KGTF Channel (GTA 12, Docomo 12).

Overflow viewing for the public will be available at the Guam Museum Indoor Theater.

Weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, and loud noise devices are prohibited. Bags may be subject to search.

Parts of Seaton Blvd., Archbishop Flores St., and Chalan Santo Papa Lane will be closed starting 4:30pm. Roads will re-open at 8pm.

A reception will follow at 7:30pm at the Government House. The public is invited to attend. ***(PR)***

Red Cross Walkathon this Saturday

The 33rd Annual American Red Cross Walkathon would be held this Saturday in Susupe at 6am starting at the Guma Sakman building in Susupe and offers 10K, 5K, and 2K courses. Each $20 donation gets you a T-shirt and giveaways. The organization is also giving away free Pacific Islands Club Saipan waterpark passes, a $10 fuel voucher for Mobil, a $5 Arch card for McDonald's Saipan, and a F'real smoothie or shake for all walkers who are able to raise $75 on their pledge forms. The walkathon would be held on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

KCHC closed on April 10 for staff training

The Kagman Community Health Center will be closed on Wednesday, April 10, 2019. The staff and management will be undergoing training. Regular office hours will resume on Thursday, April 11.

To make an appointment or to get information, call 256-KCHC (5242). Walk-ins are welcome depending on availability. Patients with appointments are given priority to be seen.

KCHC is a federally qualified health center that serves all patients regardless of inability to pay. Everyone is welcome, even those that reside outside the Kagman area. ***(PR)***

Walk & Roll in Kagman on April 10

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is inviting community members to take part in the Walk & Roll Against Sexual Violence on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 in Kagman.

Registration will start at 5pm at Kagman High School with the walk starting at 5:30pm. The first 100 individuals to register will also receive a free T-shirt.

Walk & Roll participants are also highly encouraged to create signs or banners to help spread awareness on Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which is this April, and on sexual violence and/or to show support for victims and survivors. This year's theme for the U.S. and CNMI is "I Ask" which stresses the importance of consent in ending sexual violence.

For more information, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org. Also, if you or someone who you know is experiencing sexual violence, call 911 for emergency assistance or call the 24 hour and confidential Victim Hotline at 234-5100. ***(PR)***

Radio's favorite 'Big Boy' returns to Power 99

Santi "Big Boy" Sablan has returned to the daily on-air lineup of Power 99.

Big Boy ruled the airwaves in the CNMI during the early part of the new millennium as the host of the Big Boy Morning Show on KPXP FM. He then moved to fellow Sorensen Media Group station Power 98 FM in Guam.

Sablan

"We are so glad to see the return of one of Power 99's most popular radio show hosts," said Power 99 assistant program director James "Spade" Taitano. "He is back on the morning show and ready to wake up our listeners like only he can."

The addition of Big Boy to the Power 99 lineup brings new opportunities for listeners and clients alike.

"Along with our loyal listeners getting new dynamic programming, our clients also get a chance to experience more ways to reach their customers," said SMG Saipan general manager James Nelson. *"Gracias adios para y finatun* Big Boy *tati gi* Power 99."

Big Boy will take over hosting duties on the Power 99 Morning Show every weekday from 7am to 10am and On The Go Traffic reports every afternoon from 3pm to 5pm. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

ADDENDUM NO. 1
April 10, 2019

DPW/COTA19-RFP-003; Construction Management Services for the Construction of the Commonwealth of Transit Authority (COTA) Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility

1. General: The following revisions, additions, corrections, and/or clarifications to the specifications and drawings shall apply to the work affected thereby. Careful note of this Addendum shall be taken by the bidder/contractor, and all trades affected shall be fully advised of the information contained herein. In the event of a conflict between drawings, specifications and this Addendum, the contents of this Addendum shall govern. All further conflicts in the work resulting from, or caused by, the contents of this Addendum must be brought to the attention of the Contracting Officer for resolution. Failure to acknowledge this bid Addendum in accordance with instructions may subject your Proposal to rejection on the affected items(s)/service(s).

2. Sealed Bid Proposal must be marked **"DPW/COTA19-RFP-003."** Submission date is on **May 3, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.** to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

3. **This project is funded by the Federal Transit Administrative (FTA) of the U.S Department of Transportation; Proposers are required to comply with FTA Federal Contract clauses as applicable.**

4. A Pre-Proposal Conference scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on April 19, 2019 **is change to 9:00 a.m. April 18, 2019 at the Department of Public Works Conference Room.**

All other requirements of the Request for Proposal for this project package shall remain as stated.

JAMES A. ADA
Acting, Secretary of Public Works

JACK S. REYES
Acting Director, P&S

ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
Special Assistant for Public Transportation

END OF ADDENDUM NO.1

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-011

RENOVATION OF CNMI GOVERNMENT HOUSE NO. 1216 BOARD OF PAROLE

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Renovation of CNMI Government House No. 1216 Board of Parole**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **April 3, 2019** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 19, 2019**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **April 25, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening**.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-011"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time May 3, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, May 3, 2019, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 3, 2019** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than October **May 14, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, May 17, 2019**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on May 3, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Ninety (90) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Acting Secretary of Public Works

NICK M. REYES
Board of Parole Officer

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Brunei's law allowing gays to be stoned to death is a human rights disaster

The tiny oil-rich nation of Brunei implemented a particularly brutal version of Sharia law this week under which men who engage in gay sex or adultery or women who have abortions may be stoned to death. Lesbians may be whipped and imprisoned. People who steal may have their limbs hacked off.

It's difficult to believe such barbaric and anachronistic punishments still exist in the 21st century, and that they're being applied, in most of these cases, to behavior that shouldn't be considered criminal in the first place. Brunei, a country in Southeast Asia with fewer than half a million people, is not the only nation that interprets Islamic law to allow for the execution of homosexuals or adulterers. So do Afghanistan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, among others. But even those countries don't employ such heinous punishments. Stonings are rare.

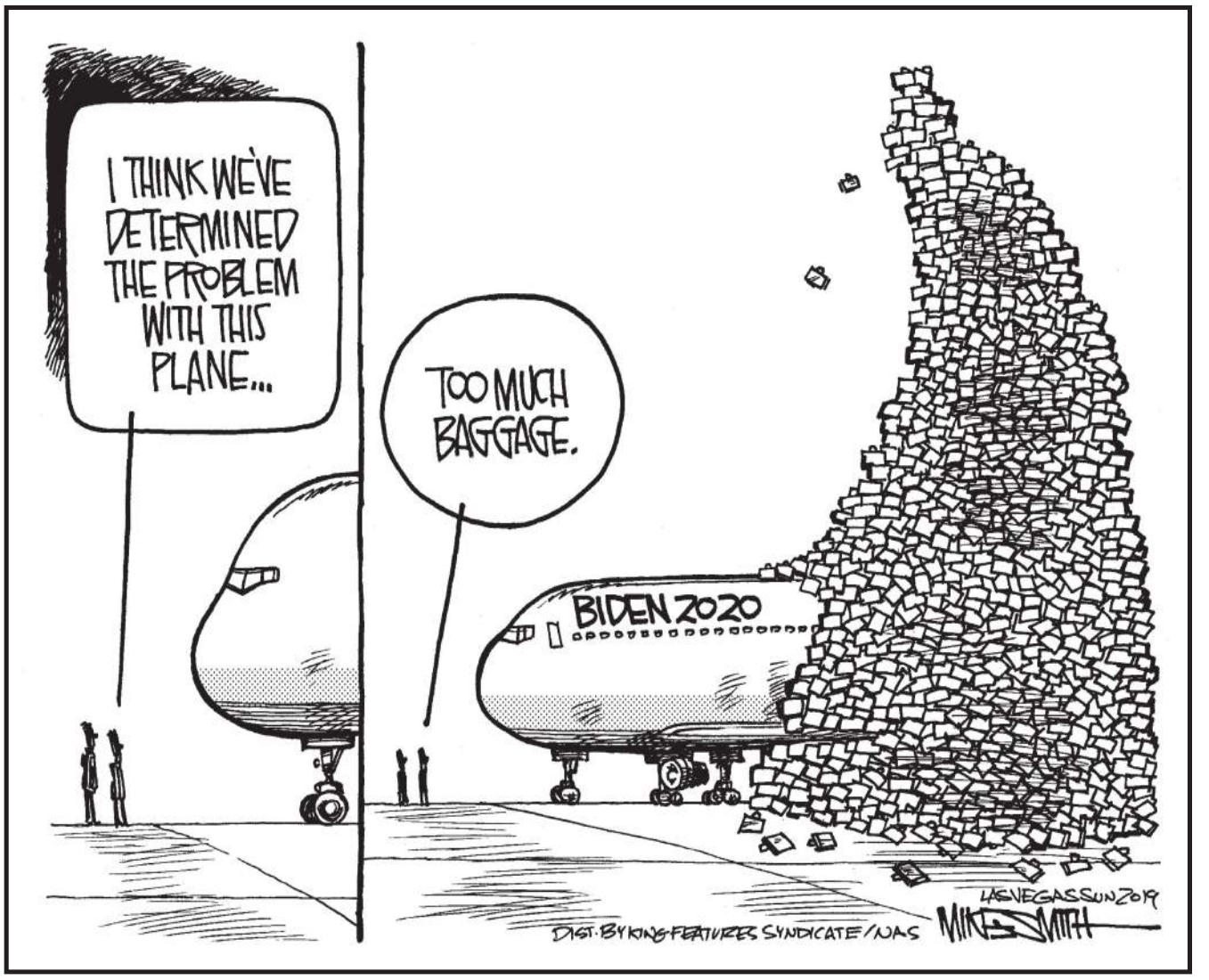
This new law ought to be reversed before it is enforced. There has been a forceful outcry from around the world. The United Nations said, perhaps stating the obvious, that stoning people and chopping off their body parts amounts to torture and a violation of basic human rights. Human rights organizations and world leaders have called on Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah to immediately halt implementation of the order. Celebrities including George Clooney, Ellen DeGeneres and Elton John have joined the fray, urging people to boycott hotels owned by the Brunei Investment Agency, including the Beverley Hills Hotel and Hotel Bel-Air as well as establishments in London, Paris and Rome.

Too bad the voice of President Trump was not among the throng of critics. Not even a quick tweet, though his thumbs were otherwise busy all week as he commented on topics as varied as Puerto Rico's ungratefulness to him and the border crisis he insists is underway.

Instead, the administration has been oddly quiet on Brunei other than a weak statement issued by the State Department on Tuesday that said "Brunei's decision to implement Phases Two and Three of the Sharia Penal Code and associated penalties runs counter to its international human rights obligations, including with respect to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." Really? That's awfully brief and tame from an administration that just weeks ago promised a global campaign to go after countries that criminalize gay people.

While the sultan is one of the richest men in the world and may not care if his hotels lose money, he seems to care about his country's reputation in the U.S. and abroad. In

See BRUNEI'S on Next Page


I THINK WE'VE DETERMINED THE PROBLEM WITH THIS PLANE...
TOO MUCH BAGGAGE.
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LASVEGASSUN 2019
MIKE SMITH

Apollo 11's first man on the moon

By ROGER SIMMONS
ORLANDO SENTINEL

When Apollo 11 landed on the moon on July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the lunar surface. Just about everyone knows that, right?

But 50 years ago this spring, no one knew for sure who was going to take "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Apollo 9's crew had just wrapped up its mission to test the command module and Apollo 10's crew was preparing for its May launch as a dress rehearsal of Apollo 11's summer moon landing, which left everyone wondering, "Who'll be the first person on the moon?"

Early speculation on who the Apollo 11 astronaut would be was, in fact, wrong.

"Space officials here said Wednesday no decision has yet been made on who would be the first American astronaut to set foot on the moon," said a wire story in the March 13, 1969, edition of the Orlando Sentinel.

NASA/MCT

In this July 20, 1969 file photo, portrait of the prime crew of the Apollo 11 lunar landing mission. From left to right they are: Commander Neil A. Armstrong, Command Module Pilot Michael Collins, and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin E. Aldrin Jr.

"They were commenting on newspaper reports that Air Force Col. Edwin ("Buzz") Aldrin, 38, would be the first man to step out of the lunar module, a small spaceship scheduled to ferry two men from the orbiting Apollo 11 spaceship to the moon and back this summer."

As the story noted, Armstrong – a civilian astronaut – had already been designated the commander for the Apollo 11 moon landing mission, with Aldrin the lunar module pilot and Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Collins the command module pilot.

There was speculation that because of his higher rank, Aldrin would be the first person to step upon the moon. Even the head of NASA's Lunar Surface Project officer confirmed to the Reuters news agency that "Aldrin was receiving the training" that the first person to step on the moon would need.

In addition to making that historic first step, the first astronaut on the moon was going to be required to scoop up some lunar soil, put it in a bag and place it inside his pocket – so a sample of the moon would be available should the astronauts have to make a quick emergency exit from the moon before other samples were taken.

It doesn't sound like there would be a lot of training needed for something like that, but this was a human's first visit to the moon.

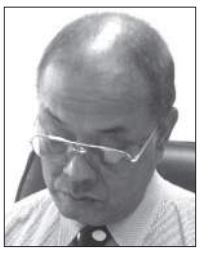
Despite the speculation that Aldrin would be "First Man," a NASA spokesman was quoted as saying, "We have not yet made a decision on who will make the first landing (stepping on the moon). Both Armstrong and Aldrin have been training. The name of the first man to land will be announced at a later date."

That date would be April 14, 1969, when NASA finally put all the speculation to rest and said Armstrong would take the famous first step on the moon when Apollo 11 landed.

George M. Lowe, manager of the Apollo spacecraft program, said at a press briefing that day that plans were subject to change, but at this point, "the way we see it is that the commander (Armstrong) will go out first."

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Wen Natting…'



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Maseha menus aduana (kontribusion tax) gi kaha na biahe puede esta kayada pot no u inaffekta setbisiun publiku siha. Lokue`, repara sa` kontodu hanum siempre umaribaha ginen fotte na tiempun maipe ni esta gaige guine.

Maribahan ekonomia tinituhun dos pagyu yan hiniyuñg fiñkas Japones. Makat i maliñgu na katsun setbisiu pot tinaka` tiempu para ta rikohiye tatte hagas fondu.

Hu konsidedera kau finattun ha`ilas i pa`gu tumalag hahalum? Puede lache suspechoghu sa` gai tiempu estake para tafan felis ginen este na sapet.

I dos masusede ti menus ke $14 biyon pesus na maliñgu ginen ekonomian iya Marianas. Puede kayada i kurentin maribaha sino mas problema apas setbisiu ni ta benefifisia pa`gu.

Gi hilu` este guaha kase 15-mit na empleau man-sinasapet ni baratu `sino suetdun popble! Gaige figan pinadese gi sentimentun empleau yan familian niha. Makat na sapet gi man-inafekta na familia siha! Kanaha` taya` esperansa! Puede guaha fina` alibiu gi kareran este na sakan.

Mas Bisnis: Ta diseseha lokue` na u guaha nuebu na adelantun bisnis. Este solu `nai siña tali`e machalapun fuetsan fondun ginen todu. Ha sedi adelantun aduana para katsun nesessidatta gi fina` setbisiu siha. Sin este siempre ta totpe seriosamente chinatsaga.

Magahet na kanaha` todu man-pinalala`e chinatsagan ha`ilas. Lau mauleg sa` fitme gi familia sattun na sensian ina`ayuda. Satbasionta gi halum maseha sumen makat na mattirun ha`ilas.

Lau pitbetsu este i natibu. Guaha `nai kadu` ti mali`e hau pot siha lokue` mangai chinatsaga. Finu` Magoo, "Wen natting, den natting!

Industria: Taya` otru guinahata fuera de dikiki` na industrian turista. Lokue`, mauleg na ayudun aduana nina` halum pumalu siha bisnis guine. Puede ta sustene i presente na kinalamten pot nesessidat hinerat.

Kutturan ina`ayuda lamayot patte umataha sapet gi tautauta siha gi halum didog na chinatsaga. Man-le`an hit gi prohimuta piot ayu i mas munesessita ausiliu. Tana` anaku` kanaita para ta ayuda tautauta kumu man-mauleg na mañgilisyanu. Namagof i kutturan ina`ayuda ni ta eksisia deste antigu na tiempu.

Kuttura: Humuyuñg un` sabiu ha kuestiotiona haf` masusede gi natibu na man-malefa ni kustumbre. Sige ha fama kustumbren sune. Diberas? Deste ñgai`an na guaha kustumbren sune gi natibu? Na ti `agun haya i sine?

Kase ha kechage dumeskute pot kuttura ya abag gi manu i propiu na konseptu. Taigue asegurau na kinemprende gi dos asuntu.

Kuttura pot modun linala` tautau. Trabiha metgut kutturan natibu ni sessu tana` tinahgue ni kustumbre. Difirensiau i dos ya chagu` lokue` sustansian niha.

Namagof sa` respetu un` kuttura `nai ta establese inafamauleg yan ina`ayuda gi entalu` tautauta siha. Kustumbre, asuntun diariu na kada ratu matulaika.

Kuttura, ma`ug! Man-ñgiñge` otru kuttura ni fitme giya hita. Tumekun hau konrespetu gi man-amku` siha `nai ma-echa hau lokue bendisionmu.

Kutturan relihion katoliku un` metgut na patte gi linala`ta. Mayotmente mañgatoliku ya man-sattun gi obligasion espirituat tat kumu misan Dameñgo yan pinitensian kuaresma.

Namagof piot `nai enteru familia umasiste este siha na obligasion. Adumididi` man-eyag i famaguonta propiu finana`guen haf` mauleg yan che`chu` echu tautau.

Felis hinanau tautauta layeye pot manfiet gi finana`guen i kutturan relihion. Mas fitme amesta, inafamauleg yan ina`ayuda gi halum hita mismu. Sensian mauleg na mañgilisyanu ginen fitme na kutturan relihion!

Chatsaga: Dispues de biradan ginen un` kantun tasi ilegña i tiuhu na ti u ta`lu tatte guihe na unai. Ha gu`ut attension-hu pot pa`gu hu huhuñgug taiguihe na sentimentu pot lugat.

Entre gaige guihe espiritun man-mofona ya ha respeta manpresenten niha `sino ti umaya i lugat yan guiya petsonatmente. Humalumyu` na i mefe`na. Umahnanau tatnai mattu tatte guihe na kantun tasi. Kau metgut na sensian menhalum na sumeha?

Mauleg na halum tanu` hu fatoigue ume-ayuyu yan binadu. Diberas, ni un` biahe `nai mana`eyu` suetteghu. Ti machatli`eyu` lau sen ti mana`eyu ni sikiera un` umañg. Sali ke para man-uman kostat yan dililiñg machete. Taya` mas!

Gi halum tanu` ayu hu huhuñgug, "Un` ratu ha` sa` un` upus". Era, estaba un` dañkulun ayuyu gi hilu` achu` ya tihu li`e. Dios mihu! Espantauyu`.

Un` che`luhu achog kantun tasi mañgone` midianu na ayuyu. Ayu `nai hu hoñgge na guaha ha` mana`e. Si Iku yomug seru guine na fina` kañada!

Talentu: Un` ñietun diñga` sige kumanta mientras dumadandan ukulele. Bonitu bosña i lahihu kontodu dumandan, mauleg. `An guaha dinidaña yaben ukulele hafaisenyu`. Animu umeyag kanta yan dandan.

Esta hana` magem-yu` pot mitalentu na patgon. Kanaha` todu famaguon-hu nietu yan nieta man-mabendise talentun dandan. `An mandaña` mas bonitu i dopbladan dos na bos gi kantan niha. Hu agradese `an sige makantaye-yu` gi pa`gu lemlem tautau. Talentu!

This is a country for old men (and old archbishops)

By MICHAEL MCGOUGH
Los Angeles Times

You don't have to be Catholic to take an interest in the announcement last week that Pope Francis has chosen the Most Rev. Wilton D. Gregory, the longtime archbishop of Atlanta, as the new head of the archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

Gregory's appointment is interesting from several vantage points: He will be the first African American archbishop of the nation's capital and he also was a leader in the American church's early response to sexual abuse by clergy—an issue that tripped up his immediate predecessor, Cardinal Donald Wuerl. (Wuerl was preceded as archbishop by Theodore McCarrick, the former cardinal who was defrocked this year after being found guilty by a church tribunal of sexual misconduct with children and adults.)

Gregory's appointment is notable for another reason: He was born on Dec. 7, 1947, meaning that he is 71. It might seem odd that the pope would appoint a septuagenarian to this important post in the American church, especially in light of the fact that bishops must submit their resignations at age 75.

But at least one commentator thinks that the choice of an older archbishop is part of a pattern. Writing in the Catholic publication La Croix International, Robert Mickens notes that Francis has often tapped older prelates for important assignments because of their "wealth of experience" and because they "share his vision for church reform and his interpretation of the Second Vatican Council."

It's also true that, in the church as in politics, leaders are living longer. If Joe Biden (76) and Bernie Sanders (77) can contemplate running for president, why can't a 71-year-old cleric assume spiritual authority in Washington?

That said, the Roman Catholic Church isn't entirely consistent about when bishops and cardinals are considered too old to serve.

Members of the College of Cardinals who turn 80 before a vacancy occurs in the papacy may not participate in the conclave to elect the next pope. But 80 is not too old to actually be pope. Francis is 82, and unlikely to retire while his predecessor, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, is still alive. (Benedict will turn 92 on April 16.) Rome may be big enough for two popes, but three would be pushing it.

AP

Archbishop designated by Pope Francis to the Archdiocese of Washington, Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, left, and Cardinal Donald Wuerl, during the news conference at Washington Archdiocesan Pastoral Center in Hyattsville, Md., Thursday, April 4, 2019. Archbishop-designate Gregory will succeed Cardinal Donald Wuerl.

Another oddity: Although bishops—obviously not including the bishop of Rome—must submit their resignations to the pope when they turn 75, the pope is free to reject a resignation if he wants a particular bishop to stay on. For a secular analogy, imagine if Supreme Court justices had to submit their resignations at 75 but the president could keep justices he agreed with on the bench.

That is what Francis has done, to the consternation of church conservatives. Wuerl, considered an ally of the pope, remained in office almost three years past his 75th birthday in 2015. He pressed the pope to accept his resignation last year because he said he wanted the archdiocese to be led by someone without the "baggage" of controversy. By contrast, the now disgraced McCarrick stepped down as archbishop of Washington shortly before his 76th birthday.

So how long will Gregory last in Washington? Mickens suggests that if Francis is still pope when Gregory turns 75, Gregory will probably stay on past retirement age. "If it's another pope," he adds, "all bets are off."

BRUNEI'S

From Page 10

2013, when Brunei first announced that it had plans to implement stoning and amputations, the news was met with opposition from around the world. Hollywood in particular snubbed the Beverly Hills Hotel and bookings dropped off noticeably. Brunei then delayed the phased-in implementation of the law, which Human Rights Watch suggests was in response to the outcry.

Then late last year the attorney general of Brunei quietly published plans on its website for the April 3 implementation date.

Brunei defends the new code, saying "apart from criminalizing and deterring acts that are against the teachings of Islam, it also aims to educate, respect and protect the legitimate rights of all individuals, society or nationality of any faiths and race."

That's baloney. If Brunei hopes to educate, respect and protect people's legitimate rights, it will reverse this odious law immediately.

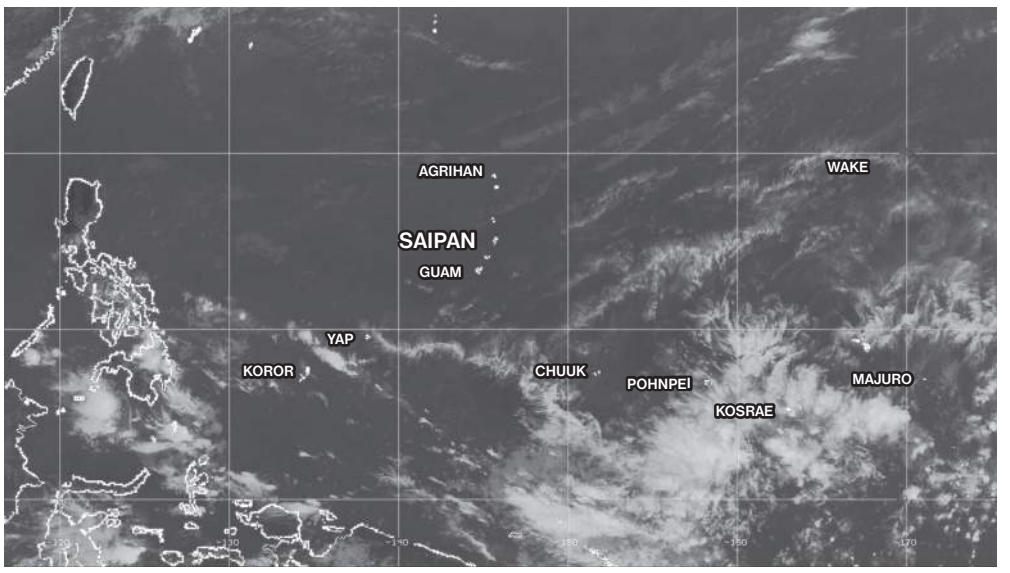
(c)2019 *Los Angeles Times*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.
89° 77°	89° 77°	88° 77°	88° 78°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:50 AM, TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change is expected the next couple of weeks as a very dry trade-wind pattern remains entrenched over the Marianas. GFS and ECMWF still show a weak shear line stalling near Anatahan later this week, thus have modified the gridded forecast to indicate higher POPs and cloud cover north of Saipan, but this ultimately has no impact on the local forecasts. Fire danger will continue to climb but winds will remain too weak such that rapidly spreading fires are not expected in the next week or so. Similarly, combined seas will see little change the next week, hovering between 4 and 5 feet into next week. A small north swell will build in later this week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 76°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Cloudy	85° / 79°
Majuro	Showers	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	68° / 59°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	68° / 37°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	82° / 72°
Honolulu	Windy	83° / 71°
London	Showers	55° / 37°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 56°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 81°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	64° / 43°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	83° / 70°
New York	Partly Cloudy	58° / 43°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 45°
Paris	Showers	61° / 43°
Busan	Cloudy	57° / 46°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	59° / 46°
Salem	Sunny	81° / 57°
San Francisco	Sunny	62° / 51°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 37°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	64° / 48°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:54 AM	LOW TIDE	1.01
10:04 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.79
5:19 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.08
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:37 AM	10:50 PM	-
Thursday	10:30 AM	11:48 PM	-
Friday	11:26 AM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:46 AM	12:25 PM
Sunday	-	1:42 AM	1:26 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/1939:15am		10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Coast Guard to recruit in NMI

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Following two highly successful recruiting trips conducted in September 2017 and May 2018, the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Coast Guard Academy will have recruiters and representatives visiting Saipan, Tinian and Rota on April 22-30, to meet with interested applicants.

On Saipan, they will be visiting Northern Marianas College, Kagman High School, Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Mount Carmel School, and Grace Christian Academy.

On Tinian and Rota, they will be visiting those islands' respective high schools.

Interested students, especially those in their senior year, should see their counselors to participate in these visits.

For those who have graduated high school, or would like more one-on-one time, the Coast Guard's representatives will be available at the following municipal offices from 1pm to 5pm: Saipan Mayor's office on April 22-26, Rota Mayor's Office on April 29, and Tinian Mayor's Office on April 30. Walk-ins are welcome.

The U.S. Coast Guard is a military, multi-mission, maritime service within the Department of Homeland Security and one of the nation's five Armed Forces. Its core roles are to protect the public, the environment and the U.S. economic and security interests in America's coasts, ports and inland waterways. Serving in the Coast Guard allows its members to travel worldwide, and duty stations include Guam, Hawaii, the mainland United States, the Caribbean, Europe, and the Middle East. As one of the five branches of the Armed Forces, all Coast Guard members earn competitive pay, benefits, and educational opportunities.

To schedule a one-on-one meeting with the Coast Guard's representatives, contact Lt. Christine T. Igisomar (christine.t.igisomar@uscg.mil).

For more information, go to www.gocoastguard.com, or for the Coast Guard Academy, www.uscga.edu. ***(PR)***

ESGR, Labor, NMBAC at SHRM meeting today

The Society for Human Resource Management will have its April general membership meeting today, April 10, at Charley's Cabaret at Pacific Islands Club-Saipan beginning at 11:30am.

The meeting will feature Donald Clark, chairman of the Guam and CNMI Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve. Clark will discuss ESGR services in the CNMI as well as the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act, including how USERRA affects employment and the rights and responsibilities of employers under USERRA. This labor law may be complicated and confusing, yet relevant, for many employers in the CNMI.

Clark will also discuss how to build or improve relationships with your employee's military supervisors or managers.

Also, representatives from CNMI Labor Department will outline the changes in the CNMI Labor JVA (job vacancy announcement) website and certification process.

Alex Sablan, president of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., will provide an update on the status of the Prevailing Wage Survey and ongoing discussions with U.S. Department of Labor regarding the interim final rules.

Today's SHRM meeting is open to the public. The presentation includes the PIC Magellan lunch buffet at the cost of $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by email at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. ***(SHRM)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P.O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 19-010

Opening Date: Friday, April 5, 2019
Closing Date: Until Filled

CHIEF ENGINEER, P.E.
(Re-announcement)

DUTIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power and water utilities to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota and wastewater utility to the island of Saipan. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the Deputy Executive Director (Water and Waste Water) or his/her designee. The duties and responsibilities are as follows: Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work, conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staffs are trained; and, making, hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work, providing technical reviews; surveying for projects, evaluating proposals, monitoring project process, approving payment, and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications, collects date and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Reviews work performed by engineers. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required by CUC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). CUC is under a Stipulated order of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case 08-0051 filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

LOCATION: **Water & Wastewater, Engineering Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands USA)**
(Saipan has a population of about 50K. It is adjacent to Asia and about a 3-hour flight south of Tokyo. It is about 100 miles north of the US Territory of Guam)

SALARY: Starting: $100,000.00 Per Annum (Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience, Exempt). If hired from outside the Northern Mariana Islands, terms and conditions of the relocation cost will be negotiated. However, the accommodations shall not exceed $5,000 for moving to the islands and shall not exceed $5,000 for moving away from the islands.

CONTRACT: Two (2) years, subject to renewal
POSITIONS: One (1)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Master's Degree in Civil, Mechanical, or Electrical Engineering. Registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical or electrical branch; Experience of ten (10) or more years as a professional engineer. **Demonstrate the following:** Proven management and communication skills; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; Competency and proficiency in overseeing major drinking water and wastewater systems during the periods of planning,, design, construction, and operation of drinking water systems' production, treatment, and distribution, and in wastewater treatment, collection and conveyance systems. **Knowledge of:** Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction principles; Engineering principles and practices. **Skill in:** Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical report and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license. Applicants maybe tested. Subject to a pre-employment drug screening.

You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

CUC IS AN AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P.O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 19-013

Opening Date: Tuesday, April 09, 2019
Closing Date: Monday, April 15, 2019

Drinking Water and Wastewater Division Manager ("DM")
(Notice of Closure)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is seeking a qualified Drinking Water and Wastewater Division Manager ("DM"). CUC is a public utility corporation, operating on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI")—a United States territory in the northwestern Pacific Ocean.

The CNMI is a tropical paradise of fourteen islands. In the CNMI you can escape to a place of magnificent beaches and crystal clear aqua waters, and rich history. Saipan offers year-round outdoor activities, world class diving and golfing, international shopping, a range of ethnic restaurants and a cacophony of indigenous and international cultures.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:

Reporting directly to CUC's Deputy Executive Director or designee, the "DM" fills a position required by the Stipulated Order ("SO") of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051.

- The incumbent of this position is under the direct supervision of the Deputy Executive Director (which may also be known as the Deputy Director for Water and Wastewater)
- Manages and oversees the CUC Drinking Water and Wastewater Division.
- Supervises employees in direct charge of drinking water systems' production, treatment, and distribution, and wastewater collection and treatment plants utilizing activated sludge secondary treatment processes.
- Responsible for the effective and efficient utilization of equipment, materials, and personnel to complete water and wastewater maintenance programs in a timely and cost effective manner.
- Manages, leads, motivates, and develops staff towards attaining needed training, skills, and certifications.
- Plays significant role in the management of drinking water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, and construction; user fee system development.
- Prepares and maintains various records and reports for the division, including: purchase orders and invoices, monthly status reports, maintenance records, budget status, etc.
- Other duties as required or assigned.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- An equivalent to a four year college degree or other field related to work with large-scale utilities and may substitute for one year of the required experience;
- Five years of proven, specialized experience as a manager in direct charge of drinking water systems' production, treatment, and distribution, and wastewater collection and treatment plants utilizing activated sludge secondary treatment processes.

- Skills: Proven manager with communication skills dealing with the public, operations staff and senior management; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff.
- Experience: Experience with managing drinking water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, and construction; Experience with drinking water and wastewater systems; user fee system development; staff training and development; and federal drinking water and wastewater requirements.
- Knowledge: Thorough knowledge of the operating principles and maintenance requirements of at least three (3) million gallons per day ("mgd") of an activated sludge wastewater treatment plant including primary and secondary treatment processes, oxygen production, and sludge digestion and dewatering.
- Preferred Requirements:
  - * Bachelor's degree in Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Civil Engineering, Public Administration, or a degree related to the position.
  - * Current (unexpired) level 3 certifications from a U.S. state, U.S. territory, U.S. commonwealth, or the District of Columbia in water treatment, and water distribution.
  - * Current (unexpired) level 2 certifications from a U.S. state, U.S. territory, U.S. commonwealth, or the District of Columbia in wastewater treatment, and wastewater distribution.

LOCATION:

SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY INFORMATION:

Based on specialized experience as a water and wastewater utility manager in a U.S. state, U.S. territory, U.S. commonwealth, and/or the District of Columbia. Base salary starts at $100,000. Also, based on educational achievement and specific (unexpired) certifications stated in this ad as preferred requirements.

POSITION:
One (1).

CONTRACT:

Two-year; subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:

If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*: Human Resource Office
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation P. O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.

2. Fax: 670-235-5131

3. Email: employment.applications@cucgov.org

4. Drop Off:

You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

POLICIES:

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

CUC IS AN AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Interview with KHS principal Leila Staffler

By ALEX MEGINO
KHS 9TH GRADE STUDENT

What's the most important role of school?

Schools are the center of every community. It is a place to learn and grow, a place to celebrate accomplishments and overcome failures. It is a place to connect the youth with the community and prepare the youth to become the future leaders of that community.

How often do KHS graduates contact you? (Do they thank you?)

I actually get contacted several times a year! Often, it is to share developments of what they are doing and where they are now. Sometimes they ask about openings. I LOVE FINDING ALUMNI WHO WANT TO TEACH.

What is your dream (perfect) school or vision of a classroom?

I like the idea of project-based schools, they also scare me because I don't know enough about how to make it work ... YET. I have a friend teaching at a place called Discovery High School in Oregon that is shaping my vision. But ideally, a dream school and dream classroom is a place where all learners feel safe to explore their interests and have the resources and support to be successful.

What quality do you value the most in students?

I value their ability to be innovative and find solutions outside of the box. I value their bravery to take chances in their learning. I value the relationships we build together.

What teaching style do you think is most effective?

I believe the only thing that makes a teaching style effective is a strong foundation of relationships that are built at the start of any course. Before you can effectively teach any content, you have to establish relationships in your class. I don't want to confuse teaching styles with strategies. Strategies are not styles. How you execute a strategy might be your style, but it is not the strategy that establishes the style. There are strategies that are more effective than others; cooperative learning for example is proven through research to be more effective than lecture-based strategies. Grouping students in groups of 2-4 with specified roles is more effective than individual learning and in groups larger than five according to all leading research. These are all strategies important to planning any lesson, and we haven't even gotten to content yet!

Has Super Typhoon Yutu greatly affected KHS' school schedule?

Not so much as we are started back up on full day and will continue to be full day until further notice. We did lose our half day Fridays for teacher in-service training.

Will school events be cancelled due to Super Typhoon Yutu?

Not all school events. We even held our pep rally before break as planned, just with a little bit different format. We are reorganizing our plans, but not canceling things yet.

How will Super Typhoon Yutu affect learning?

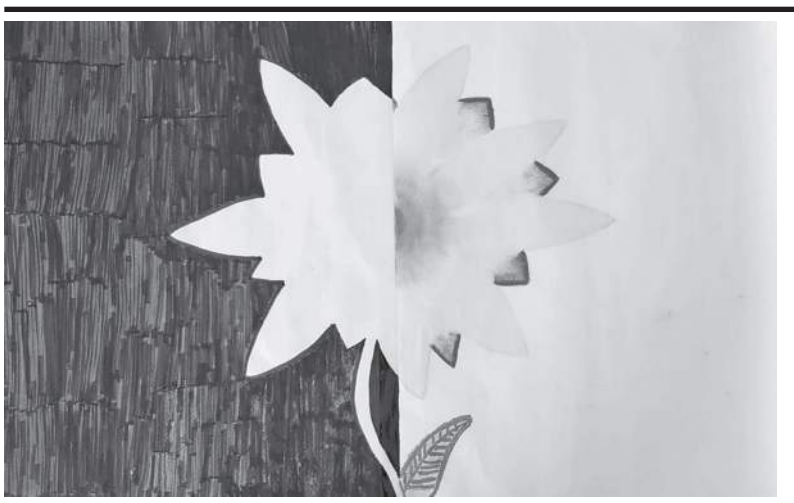
The internet is the most affected at this point because we don't have access until the MHS campus power is full up and running. We have a limited internet access plan at this time, but it is not at all what we were used to.

Can students benefit from Super Typhoon Yutu in any way?

So many students shared with me about benefits they got from this experience! They benefitted from seeing their environmental class topics come to life! Conservation of water and other resources is super important after a typhoon. I remember students sharing about how much more time they spent with their families because they ate together and were less distracted by electronics. Most importantly, I know many students contributed to the relief efforts through community service activities across the islands. EVERYONE BENEFITS FROM COMMUNITY SERVICE! The people receiving it of course, but those giving community service, those benefits are priceless and long lasting. The relationships built from this disaster through community service is a huge benefit for all.

What is the best motto for students when they deal with the damage from Typhoon Yutu?

You too, can overcome disasters. Stay positive and focused, and you will overcome.



SUNFLOWER
Project: Positive and Negative Art
Artists: Deana Atalig, Maria Castro, Vicky Ann Pangelinan, Taylor San Nicolas, and Jannah Casarino.
Grade: 8th grade
Teacher: Mr. Aurelio Billedo (Art Teacher)

THE ROSE
Project: Positive and Negative Art
Artists: Joan Tomokane, Ashley Tenorio, Haena Cruz, Jacrine Quitugua, and Donavan Apatang
Grade: 8th grade
Teacher: Mr. Aurelio Billedo (Art Teacher)

CREATIVE WRITERS CLUB

One selfie per yard

By KOEYFFICIENT

Walking to a fabric store counter, the pretty girl said, "How much does this fabric cost?"

"Only one selfie per yard," replied the clerk with a smile on his face.

"That's fine," said the girl. "I'll take 15 yards."

The clerk measured it and wrapped the fabric and took out his phone.

The pretty girl snapped the package and pointed to the old man behind her, and smiled," Grandpa's gonna pay the bills."

Members of the Creative Writers Club.

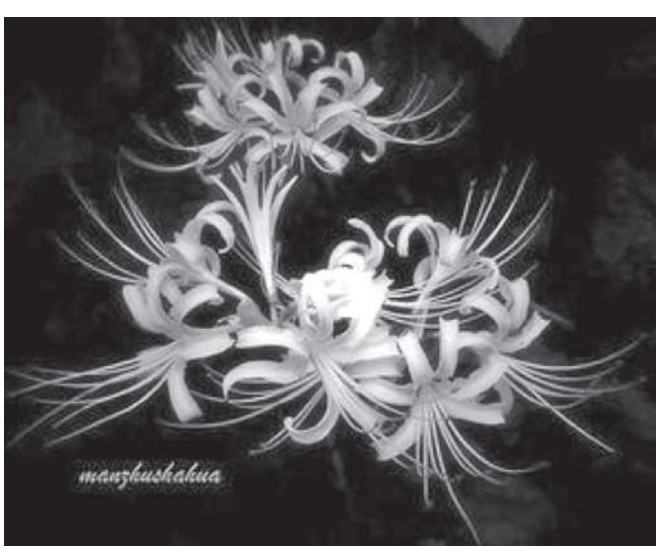
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The legend of the other shore flower

By LISAI CHEN

Legend has it that a long time ago, the edge of the city was full of large patches of flowers on the other side—also known as Manzhu Shahua. The guardian is next to the other side of the flower is two fairy, one is the flower demon called Manzhu, one is the leaf demon called Shahua. They have been waiting for thousands of years of flowers, but they have never been able to see each other... because of the growth habits of Manzhushahua, the leaves are not visible when the flowers are open, but the flowers are not visible when there are leaves. Between the flowers and leaves, they can never meet each other. However, they frantically missed each other and were deeply tortured by this pain. Finally, one day they decided to go against the rules of God and secretly meet once.

That year, Man Zhusha Hua Hongyan's flowers were set off by the eye-catching green, which made it particularly beautiful. But in this case, God blamed it. Manzhu and Shahua were beaten into reincarnation, and they were cursed forever. They could not be together in the world. Since then, Manzhushahua has been called Bianhuahua, meaning flowers that are open in heaven. The shape of the flower is like a palm that only prays to heaven, but it has never appeared in the city again... Since then, this flower has become only on the other side of Huangquan Road, when Manzhu and Shahua reincarnation, they smell the scent of the other side of the flower on the Huangquan Road. They can think of their past lives and then vow to not separate again, but they will fall into the reincarnation of the curse again.



The girl with the blue goggles

By FEIFEI LEI

She was strange, not me. But the girl next door. She was strange in every facet, form her oversized swimming shoes, to her wild dark hair. The thing that fascinated me the most was how she wore bright blue goggles every time I saw her. Each day, at around seven in the evening, she would ride her old-fashioned bike away, to somewhere.

I once talked to her, she didn't take off her goggles. She only smiled and went away. I never once had seen her parents. Only her house, and her house, too, was strange. It was an old wooden house with a melancholy weeping willow next to it. In the morning, I would see her water the tree.

My parents thought her strange too, though they never said anything.

One evening, I tried talking to her again. I asked where she was heading. She nervously clenched her bicycle and bit her lower lip. I continued to ask. Why did she cover her eyes with her goggles? She answered this time, but with a vague answer.

"Fly." And she biked away into the distance.

I grew ever the more curious. One evening, I decided to follow her. After she had biked a good distance away, I rode my bike after her.

She was heading toward the great pine forest. I was frightened, but determined. Once at the forest, I got down from the bike. It was freezing cold. I had goosebumps. The sound of wolves echoed across the great forest. My goosebumps doubled.

I saw her bike nearby, on the ground. There were no footsteps, no trail of where she headed. How could that be? Had the wolves found her first before me? I went in the forest.

I heard the crunch of leaves beneath my feet. Wolves howling in the distance. The very sound made my heart skip a beat. Then they were closer. They came closer.

I wanted to run, but my feet were frozen. I could see them. But they were not chasing me, but a large white swan.

The eyes of the swan were large yellow marbles reflecting the light of the full moon. I was enchanted by them. It wasn't flying. Why can't it fly?

It seems to be looking at the moon as it came out of the clouds. Then, it flew.

It flew off and perched on the branch of a willow tree. It then looked at me and seemed to say, "Go away, why are you here?"

Then I realized, that the girl had flown.

Why are zebras black and white

By JENAYA

Night comes,
The crickets sing their tune,
Larvae in cocoons,
Ants on a silent move,
Like troops who hum under the moon.
But eyes are the way of the night,
Mindful of what might strike.
Spiders, with their eyes a-plenty,
Owls with eyes the size of the moon,
Watching mice looming under a dark hood.
But trees win the prize,
For the best set of eyes,
With eyes unseen but keen,
Watchful in the night.
Why are zebras black and white?

A long time ago… all animals were black and white. UNTIL A MAGICAL RAINBOW WIZARD CAME! (Aka color cameras *cough* the wizards were inside the cameras) The color wizards gave every animal color, except for the zebras because they were jerks. But, a black and white wizard took pity on the zebras. She couldn't do much but, still she gave the zebras the colors she had, black and white.

Or maybe....

Zebras are pianos!!! (*plays dun DUN DUNNNN on the piano*)

The unexpected and bizarre

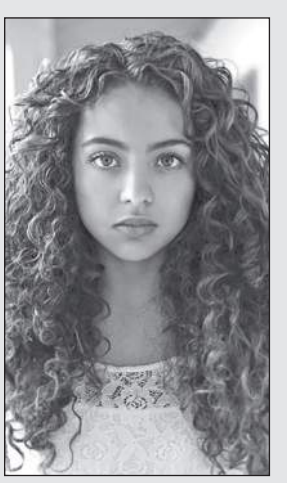
By psal.medinaaa

INTRODUCTION:

Atarah Myers. She's intelligent—a straight A student, talented, and... pretty. Not among the prettiest, but pretty enough. She definitely wasn't the most popular, but she had the BEST friend, Rachel. She has curly brown hair, and emerald green eyes, along with medium tan skin.

Asher Powers. He is among the most good-looking boys in school. He is also very popular, sporty, and smart enough to get A's for most of his classes. He has messy dirty blonde hair, baby blue eyes, and light tan skin.

See BIZARRE on Next Page



Atarah

Rachel

'Sense of Pono'

By CASSIDY "MIO" Y. ESTRADA
HOPWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL
8TH GRADE STUDENT

My name is Cassidy "Mio" Y. Estrada. I am a member of the Halau Hula (group/hula school), Alana'ia, on the island of Saipan. As a member of Alana'ia, it is my *kuleana* (duty/responsibility) to carry with great respect and honor, the knowledge of hula that is shared with us by our *kumus* (teachers); Kumu Ed and Kumu Malia Johnson. It is through our hand gestures, smiles, body movements, and how we live our daily lives, even outside of the *halau*, that one can witness the great values that many of us *haumanas* (students) have learned. I began my journey as a hula performer 10 years ago as a really young *keiki* (child). I immediately fell in love with hula then, and my passion for it continues to grow even greater today.

Hula and Halau Alana'ia are important parts of my life, not just as the activities or the sense *ohana*, but for all the great life lessons they provide. For example, as the *halau*'s name suggests, Alana'ia, meaning, to rise up, we the Haumana must rise up and endure and overcome whenever we are presented with new challenges in life just as we are to Alana'ia when new dances are introduced or whenever we feel nervous before a performance. Another great lesson that hula as taught me is pono, or as the Chamorro called it in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, inafa'maolek, or to make everything right. In hula, in order to properly tell a story and to share a genuine smile, the presenter, or in this case the hula dancer, must be in a pono state of being.

Hula has had a big impact in my life, it's taught me to be calm and gentle to everything and everyone. The dances are never fast and they are always peaceful, emotional, and graceful.

I will continue to do what I love and dance hula for as long as I can, hoping that those watching hula too can find their sense of pono.

NEW RUBRIC!

'FriendsTube'

Tell the world about your best friend(s)

My best friend is Yutaka (GTC, 3rd Grade). He is good at soccer. He is nice to his classmates and he is good at school.

—T.M.

My friend is Giana (3rd Grade, GTC). She is as smart as me. We get good grades because we pay attention. We have fun helping each other. We also have a perfect teacher.

—Happy Squirrel

Hello, everyone. I'd prefer to keep my profile under the wraps, but I want you all to know one thing. My friends are great people. Their humor keeps me smiling, and their intelligence combined create an unstoppable barrage of laughter. I just want to thank these people very much for just being there and for being who they are. Devoted to Rojer, Ezra, Gavin, and Ely (9th Grade, KHS)

—The Ace

Good day, ladies and gentlemen! I desire to remain unknown, but there is something I can't hold but tell you. Friends are people who you could depend on if you are far from your family. Anyway, my comrades are remarkable colleagues. Their names are Sheira, Kaitani, and Brian (6th Grade, TANMS). Whenever there are group works and we are able to get together, our combined wits help us finish faster and easier. But not only that. They are mostly humorous in numerous of our conversations. Like this, not one of us ever gets put down. I really want to give a HUMONGOUS thanks for helping and never leaving me and each other!

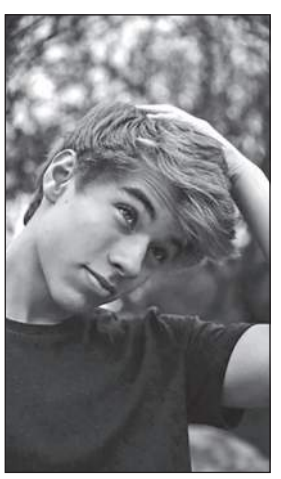
—Anonymous

BIZARRE

From Page 15

They lived completely separate lives: Atarah excelling academically, while Asher excels in sports. Who would've thought their paths would cross?

And who would've guessed that their intersecting of roads would've led to the most bizarre experiences of their high school lives?



Asher

CHAPTER 1:

Atarah -

"Tarah!" Oh, Rach. What is it now?? She was squealing and jumping up and down like crazy. Geez, missy. Tone it down a little, would you??

"AshRah is SOOO a thing right now," she continued, eyes wide with excitement. AshRah?? What on earth is - "Look!" and she showed me her phone, which was showing how many screenshots of comments on social media about…

Me and Asher Powers?? H - How??

Just the thought of images of me and every schoolgirl's dreamboy all over social media is insane enough, but the comments…

I so ship these two! went someone named Myra.

Ikr! What should we call them? an Ilene replied.

What about AshTarah? a Theo suggested.

No, ASHRAH!!!!!!! a friend of mine from Algebra, Carly, posted.

Yes! That's perfect. #AshRah4Lyfe!! Myra confirmed.

Oh my, yes!! Sports royalty with the academic star? Best combination EVERRR! added someone named …

"Rach!"

There were at least 50 more comments after that, but I decided to stop at my best friend's comment.

She held up two hands in mock surrender and showed the peace sign. "I couldn't help it, okay? You guys looked sooo cute in the pics. I mean, come on!" Then in a sort of loud whisper she added, "Didn't you say you had a crush on him?"

"Yes, I do," I replied my voice barely a sound in the deafening noise of the teenagers in the cafeteria, "but it's only a slight crush."

"You sure this doesn't make you like him any more than just 'slightly'?"

"Yes, Rach. Nothing more than just 'slightly'." I imitated how she air quoted the word "slightly".

"Okay. If you say so," she sort of sing-songed.

I could barely eat my lunch after that. My favorite dish of, like, all time - my dad's special white pasta - was right in front of me and I couldn't eat it, despite the rumbling of my empty stomach. I was way too distracted. I'm certain by the way Rachel was looking at me that she noticed.

"Tarah, are you okay?" she asked, concern evident on her face. "Yeah," I replied. "I'm just… well…" "Thinking? Distracted?" she finished for me. This is why Rach is my best friend. She knows me too well. I nodded with a small smile in response. "This because of what I just showed you on my phone? Crazy, right? But, still. I think it's cute. Must be overwhelming though, huh? Oh sister, I'm sorry," she said, smiling dreamily the whole time. I was looking at her still with that small smile on my face, an eyebrow raised as to say, *really?*

I looked at my barely half-eaten lunch and decided I should eat. I mean, I was hungry. So eat I did 'til I've had every single bite this pasta had to offer.

Most of the pics Rachel showed me were of me and Asher either in the library or the huge field where all the sporty people play their sports.

Asher and I had to have those pictures taken for this project the school has to promote academic achieving and being active through sports. I didn't think it'd go as far as social media and shipping. Oh, and how it came to be that he and I of all the people in our school were chosen for the project? One, the project needed sophomores. Two? Nomination. I have at least one friend in all my classes–other than Rachel in Chemistry and Algebra classes, of course—and they all nominated me, along with all their friends, whom I do not know and I'm certain didn't know me until the project came up, who were encouraged to nominate me as well. Ilene, one of those who commented on the first post Rach showed me, I know, is a friend of Alexa, a good friend of mine in English class. What's more, the other intelligent sophomores didn't want to do take part in this project, and as much as I tried to get them to take the position, majority of them thought I was perfect for the role, and I had no idea I'd be the one with the most votes.

So… I became popular overnight, huh??

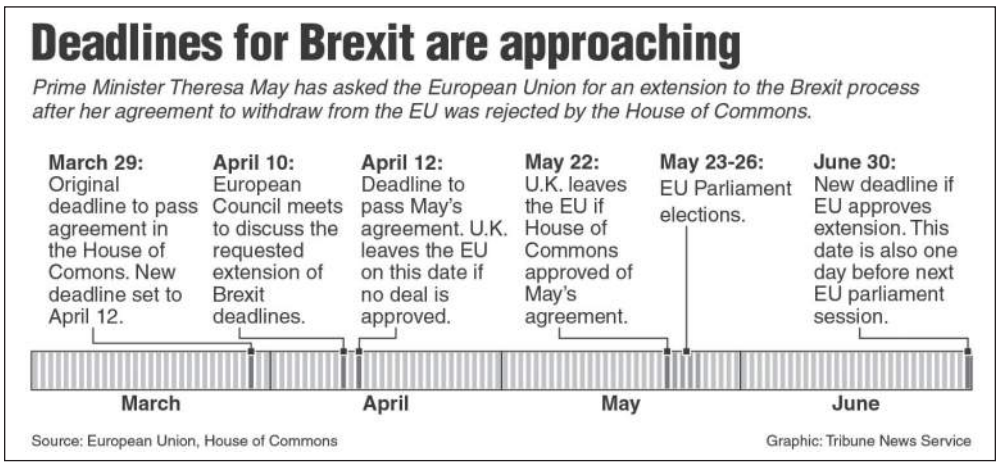
Not just popular. Popular with THE Asher Powers.

Great. Just great…

Definitely did not see that one coming.

Business

May courts UK opponents and EU leaders over Brexit


Deadlines for Brexit are approaching
Prime Minister Theresa May has asked the European Union for an extension to the Brexit process after her agreement to withdraw from the EU was rejected by the House of Commons.
March 29: Original deadline to pass agreement in the House of Comons. New deadline set to April 12.
April 10: European Council meets to discuss the requested extension of Brexit deadlines.
April 12: Deadline to pass May's agreement. U.K. leaves the EU on this date if no deal is approved.
May 22: U.K. leaves the EU if House of Commons approved of May's agreement.
May 23-26: EU Parliament elections.
June 30: New deadline if EU approves extension. This date is also one day before next EU parliament session.
March
April
May
June
Source: European Union, House of Commons
Graphic: Tribune News Service

LONDON (AP)—Prime Minister Theresa May wooed domestic political opponents and European leaders Monday as she sought to break Britain's Brexit impasse and secure a delay to the country's departure from the European Union.

May's Conservative government and the main opposition Labour Party were clinging to hope of finding a compromise Brexit deal, two days before EU leaders decide whether to grant an extension to the U.K.'s departure from the bloc. If they refuse, Britain faces a sudden and chaotic departure on Friday, the Brexit deadline previously set by the EU.

May has asked for a new delay until June 30, to give Britain's divided politicians time to agree, approve and implement a withdrawal agreement. The bloc's leaders are due to meet Wednesday in Brussels to consider the request.

An extension requires unanimous approval from all 27 EU national leaders, some of whom are fed up with Brexit uncertainty and reluctant to prolong it further. French President Emmanuel Macron has been particularly resistant to the idea of further delaying Brexit, saying the EU can't be held "hostage" to Britain's political crisis.

May's office said the prime minister spoke to multiple European leaders by phone Monday and will dash Tuesday to Berlin and Paris for face-to-face talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Macron.

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt urged European leaders to be cooperative, saying May "is totally and utterly determined to deliver Brexit."

"They want Brexit to be resolved as quickly as possible," Hunt said of the other 27 EU leaders. "So do we."

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said he was "open to extending the deadline."

"There will be different views, but I am confident that we will reach agreement," he said after meeting chief EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier in Dublin.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, however, said May would have to convince EU leaders that Britain would continue "sincere cooperation" with the bloc if granted a delay. Some pro-Brexit British politicians have suggested the U.K. could try to disrupt EU policymaking if it remains a member much longer.

Almost three years after Britons voted by 52% to 48% to leave the EU, the country remains divided and the political process deadlocked.

May and the EU agreed late last year on divorce terms, but the agreement has been rejected by Parliament three times. In desperation, May last week sought talks with the left-of-center Labour Party.

Ghost of Toys R Us still haunts toy makers

NEW YORK (AP)—This year, children will have a hard time finding Uncle Milton's glow-in-the-dark ant farm, or the gel and ant village version. Basic Fun, the parent company behind the brand, has stopped producing them and now makes just three versions—basic, giant and retro.

Who's to blame? Toys R Us.

A year after Toys R Us imploded, toy makers are still readjusting to the big loss of shelf space. That means slashing the number of styles they carry, re-evaluating how they sell large toys like playhouses and cars, and changing their packaging to squeeze into smaller retail spaces.

It's a jolt for toy companies. They had already been trying to reinvent themselves amid an onslaught of changes, including kids' evolving tastes toward gadgets, as well as the rise of Amazon and online shopping. They never expected the iconic chain to liquidate its 800 U.S. stores six months after it filed for Chapter 11 reorganization in 2017. Some companies depended on the chain for as much as 40 percent of overall sales.

A slew of retailers like Walmart, Target and Party City rushed to expand their toy aisles to capitalize on Toys R Us's demise, but toy companies say they aren't able to fill the void. The stores devoted big sections to toys year round and served as incubators of new trends. They also say that Toys R Us' massive orders of tens of thousands of units offset the cost of production.

All this has led to fewer options for kids.

"Maybe the world only needs one kind of ant farm, but in the day, you had a choice," said Jay Foreman, president and CEO of Basic Fun, a Boca Raton, Florida-based company that purchased the assets of Uncle Milton, K'Nex and Playhut over the past year. He is now evaluating his overall lineup.

With K'Nex construction sets, shoppers will only see 20 playsets, instead of the 60 it had last year, Foreman said.

Many parents have taken note.

Stephen Desch of Keyport, N.J., said when his now 3-year-old daughter wanted a crab-shaped sandbox, he found it at Toys R Us. But he can't find certain items now, like a plush toy inspired by the Jay character from the Netflix show "Beat Bugs."

"It's definitely annoying," Desch said.

Vanessa Myers of Bristol, Virginia, cites too many choices in some categories, like light up toys for the tub. But she does worry about the dwindling selection of dolls and bikes.

"I really want dolls that are diverse," in hair color and ethnicity, she added.

Nation

Judge blocks Trump's asylum policy

A U.S. judge decided Monday to block the Trump administration's policy of returning asylum seekers to Mexico as they wait for an immigration court to hear their cases, but the ruling is on hold for several days.

Judge Richard Seeborg in San Francisco granted a request on behalf of 11 asylum seekers from Central America and legal advocacy groups to halt the practice while their lawsuit moves forward, but he held off on enforcing his decision until Friday to give the government a chance to ask an appeals court for a review.

The policy lacks sufficient protections to ensure migrants don't face "undue risk to their lives or freedom" in Mexico, the judge said. Seeborg also said a law that President Donald Trump's administration cited as its authority to send back migrants does not apply to asylum seekers such as those who sued.

It was not immediately clear whether the administration would ask an appeals court to put the ruling on hold. The U.S. Department of Justice declined to comment. Trump tweeted that the ruling was "unfair to the U.S."

The launch of the policy in January at the nation's busiest border crossing—in San Diego—marked an unprecedented change to the U.S. asylum system, government officials and asylum experts said. Families seeking asylum typically have been released in the U.S. with notices to appear in court.

The Trump administration says the policy responds to a crisis at the southern border that has overwhelmed the ability of immigration officials to detain migrants. Growing numbers of families are fleeing poverty and gang violence in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

» But delays enforcement

The ruling came a day after Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen resigned and as the administration faces repeated court setbacks on strict anti-immigration measures that were a signature campaign promise for Trump, including losses on such policies as separating families at the border and ending protections for young immigrants.

The lawsuit says the Trump administration is violating U.S. law by failing to adequately evaluate the dangers that migrants face in Mexico.

Under the new policy, asylum seekers are not guaranteed interpreters or lawyers and don't get to argue to a judge that they face the potential of persecution or torture if they are sent back to Mexico, Judy Rabinovitz, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, said at a March court hearing.

Seeborg said in his ruling that "further procedural protections would be required to conform to the government's acknowledged obligation to ensure aliens are not returned to unduly dangerous circumstances."

The ACLU and other groups also argue in the lawsuit that a law allowing the return of some immigrants to Mexico does not apply to asylum seekers who cross the border illegally or arrive at a border crossing without proper documents.

Seeborg agreed, saying the "plain language" of the law supported that interpretation.

"Try as it may, the Trump administration cannot simply ignore our laws in order to accomplish its goal of preventing people from seeking asylum in the United States," Rabinovitz said in a statement after the ruling.

The administration hopes that making asylum seekers wait in Mexico will discourage weak claims and help reduce an immigration court backlog of more than 800,000 cases.

Attorney: Mar-a-Lago infiltrator had hidden-camera detector

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A Chinese woman recently arrested at President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago club lied repeatedly to Secret Service agents while carrying computer malware unlike anything a government analyst had ever seen and had more than $8,000 in cash at her hotel room, along with an electronic device that detects hidden cameras, federal authorities told a judge Monday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Rolando Garcia told Magistrate Judge William Matthewman during a bond hearing that "there are a lot of questions that remain" about 32-year-old Yujing Zhang

He said the FBI is still investigating whether Zhang is a spy.

Zhang was arrested March 30 after Secret Service agents said she lied to gain admission to the president's Palm Beach resort and was found to be carrying two Chinese passports, four cellphones, a laptop computer, an external hard drive and a thumb drive containing the malware.

Matthewman adjourned the hearing until next Monday as Zhang's public defender said he's still gathering evidence that could justify her release on bail on charges of lying to federal agents and illegal entry to a restricted area. Garcia said he expects Zhang will be indicted by a federal grand jury this week on those charges.

He said Zhang would be a "serious risk of flight" if she were released while awaiting trial, as she has no ties to the United States. The State Department revoked her visa last week, he said, so even if released on bond, she would be detained by immigration officials. She arrived in the U.S. on a flight from Shanghai to Newark, New Jersey, two days before her arrest.

Zhang sat quietly at the defense table during the two-hour hearing, scribbling notes in Chinese characters as she listened to a translator through headphones. She wore a blue jail jumpsuit and her wrists were shackled.

"She lies to everyone she encounters," Garcia told the judge. He said that not only did Zhang falsely tell a Secret Service agent at a Mar-a-Lago checkpoint that she was a member there to use the pool, even though she had no swimsuit, she told agents she was carrying her computer gear because she was afraid the items would be stolen if she left them in her hotel room.

But when agents searched it, they found $7,620 in U.S. currency, another $663 worth of Chinese currency, numerous U.S. credit and debit cards, the device used to find hidden electronics and other computer gear, he said.

Secret Service agent Samuel Ivanovich told the judge that when an agency analyst uploaded the malware found on Zhang's thumb drive, it immediately began installing on the analyst's computer and corrupting its files.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan anti-graft court indicts opposition leader, his son

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistani anti-graft tribunal has indicted opposition leader Shahbaz Sharif on charges he misused his authority to benefit his family's factory while he was chief minister in the eastern Punjab province. His son Hamza Shahbaz was also indicted during Tuesday's brief court hearing in Lahore, the capital of Punjab province. The father and son denied any wrongdoing. They were not arrested and were allowed to leave the court. Under Pakistani laws, now they will face a trial. Sharif is leader of the opposition in the National Assembly and he served as chief minister of Punjab from 2013 to 2018. He is the younger brother of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was disqualified from office in 2017 over corruption charges.

Pakistan hands over 100 Indian fishermen in goodwill gesture

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani authorities have handed over 100 detained Indian fishermen to their country's officials at the Wahga border crossing. This is the first batch of a total 360 fishermen set for release this month. The transfer on Monday comes as a goodwill gesture aiming to defuse tensions between the two nuclear-armed South Asian neighbors. The fishermen were released Sunday in Karachi and escorted to the eastern city of Lahore. Pakistan and India frequently arrest each other's fishermen on charges of illegal fishing in their territorial waters. They often languish in detention until such goodwill gestures are shown from either side. Tensions between the two nations flared in February after a suicide bombing in the Indian-controlled part of Kashmir killed more than 40 Indian soldiers.

3 American soldiers, 1 US contractor killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Three American service members and a U.S. contractor were killed when their convoy hit a roadside bomb on Monday near the main U.S. base in Afghanistan, the U.S. forces said. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. The U.S. and NATO Resolute Support mission said the four Americans were killed near the Bagram Air Base, north of Kabul, while three others were wounded in the explosion. The base in Bagram district is located in northern Parwan province and serves as the main U.S. air facility in the country. The wounded were evacuated and are receiving medical care, the statement said. It added that in accordance with U.S. Department of Defense policy, the names of service members killed in action were being withheld until after the notification of next of kin. In their claim of responsibility, the Taliban said they launched the attack and that one of their suicide bombers detonated his explosives-laden vehicle near the NATO base. The conflicting accounts could not be immediately reconciled. The fatalities, which bring to seven the number of U.S. soldiers killed so far this year in Afghanistan, underscore the difficulties in bringing peace to the war-wrecked country even as Washington has stepped up efforts to find a way to end the 17-year war, America's longest.

Afghan forces battle Taliban for 5th day in western province

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan security forces are battling the Taliban for a fifth day after the insurgents launched a wide-scale attack in the western Badghis province, officials said Monday. Col. Qais Mangal, a spokesman for Defense Ministry, said that at least 12 security forces have been killed in the last 48 hours, bringing the overall death toll to more than 40. Mangal said dozens of insurgents have been killed and wounded by air and ground forces. Some 2,000 Taliban fighters attacked checkpoints and an army compound in the Bala Murghab district before dawn Thursday. Mohammad Nasir Nazari, a provincial council member, said some 600 Afghan soldiers who were trapped inside the base were able to escape and reach the provincial capital of Qala-e-Now over the past two days after reinforcements reached the base. He said army commandos and special police units are currently battling the insurgents, with high casualties on both sides. He was unable to provide an exact breakdown of the numbers killed and wounded. The Taliban effectively control nearly half the country and have continued to carry out daily attacks on Afghan security forces despite holding several rounds of peace talks with the United States in recent months. The Taliban have refused to meet with the Afghan government, which they view as a U.S. puppet.

More Indonesians join cases against Boeing after CEO apology

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—More families of victims of the Lion Air crash in Indonesia are suing Boeing Co. after its chief executive apologized and said a software update for the MAX 8 jet would prevent further disasters. Family members and lawyers said Monday that CEO Dennis Muilenburg's comment last week related to an automated flight system was an admission that helps their cases. The anti-stall system is suspected as a cause of the Lion Air crash in October and an Ethiopian Airlines crash in March that also involved a MAX 8 jet. The two crashes killed a total of 346 people. Preliminary reports into both crashes found that faulty sensor readings erroneously triggered the anti-stall system that pushed the plane's nose down. Pilots of each plane struggled in vain to regain control. Families of 11 Lion Air victims said at a news conference organized by Jakarta law firm Kailimang & Ponto that they are joining dozens of other Indonesian families in filing lawsuits against Boeing. "Boeing's CEO explicitly apologized to 346 passenger families," said Merdian Agustin, whose husband died in the crash. "We hope this is good momentum to have compensation rights." Agustin, the mother of three children, said that she and dozens of other families have not received 1.2 billion rupiah ($85,000) compensation they are entitled to in Indonesia because they refused to sign a "release and discharge" document that extinguishes their right to sue Lion Air, Boeing or their subsidiaries.

Top Afghan official supports US outreach to Taliban

DEAD SEA, Jordan (AP)—A top Afghan official says he supports U.S. efforts to pursue a cease-fire with the Taliban, who effectively control half of Afghanistan and refuse to negotiate with his government. Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah shares power with President Ashraf Ghani in a U.S.-brokered unity government. Abdullah spoke to The Associated Press on Sunday at the World Economic Forum in Jordan. Abdullah says the Taliban could take part in elections and even compete for the presidency if they renounce violence. He says Afghans want peace, but "they don't want to live the way that the Taliban want them to live." The Taliban have held talks with a U.S. envoy in recent months while continuing to carry out daily attacks on Afghan forces. The insurgents dismiss the Afghan government as a U.S. puppet.

World

Iran elite force labeled terrorist organization

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States on Monday designated Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps a foreign terrorist organization, an unprecedented declaration against a foreign government that may prompt retaliation and make it harder for American diplomats and military officers to work with allies in the region.

It is the first time that the U.S. has designated an entity of another government as a terrorist organization, placing a group with vast economic resources that answers only to Iran's supreme leader in the same category as al-Qaida and the Islamic State.

"This unprecedented step, led by the Department of State, recognizes the reality that Iran is not only a state sponsor of terrorism, but that the IRGC actively participates in, finances and promotes terrorism as a tool of statecraft," President Donald Trump said in announcing the measure.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the designation is intended to increase pressure on Iran, isolating it further and diverting some of the financial resources it uses to fund terrorism and militant activity in the Middle East and beyond. But, in addition to the potential for Iranian retaliation, it complicates a delicate balance for U.S. personnel in at least two key countries.

The administration went ahead with the designation despite expressions of "serious" concern by senior defense and intelligence officials about the possibility of retaliation, as well as the effectiveness against an organization already subject to sanctions, according to two U.S. officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the decision.

Pompeo said the move is part of an effort to put "maximum pressure" on Iran to end its support for terrorist plots and militant activity that destabilizes the Middle East. Speaking to reporters, he rattled off a list of attacks dating to the 1980s for which the U.S. holds Iran and the IRGC responsible, beginning with the attacks on the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon in 1983.

AP

In this Feb. 11, 2019 file photo, Iranian Revolutionary Guard members attend a ceremony celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, at the Azadi, or Freedom, Square in Tehran, Iran.

Netanyahu, Gantz make last pitches in tight Israeli election

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his chief challenger Benny Gantz made their final appeals to voters Monday on the eve of parliamentary elections that will determine whether the longtime Israeli leader stays in power.

Buoyed by a tight alliance with President Donald Trump but clouded by a series of looming corruption indictments, Netanyahu is seeking a fifth term in office that would make him Israel's longest-serving leader, surpassing founding father David Ben-Gurion.

He faces his stiffest challenge in a decade from Gantz, a telegenic former military chief whose Blue and White party has inched ahead of Netanyahu's ruling Likud party in the polls. Netanyahu, however, still appears to have the better chance of forming a coalition, with a smattering of small nationalist and ultra-Orthodox parties vowing to back him.

In the campaign's final days, Netanyahu has veered to the right, vowing to annex Jewish West Bank settlements if re-elected and embarking on a media blitz in which he portrays himself as the underdog and frantically warns that "the right-wing government is in danger."

"The hour is very late. Right now, we are behind by a few seats," he said during a surprise visit to Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda outdoor market. "The only way to ensure to close the gap, to make sure the Likud will form the next government for sure, is that there will be big Likud."

His nationalist allies, however, see the move as a repeat of his 2015 election tactic to draw away their voters as he did four years ago when on election day, he warned of Arabs turning out in "droves." The scare tactics were seen as helping him seal a come-from-behind victory.

With Israel generally safe and thriving, the Palestinian issue largely sidelined and no major existential matters on the agenda, the focus of Tuesday's election has shifted to Netanyahu himself.

Israel's attorney general has recommended indicting him on bribery and breach of trust charges in three separate cases. Rivals have also begun to question a deal in which Netanyahu reportedly earned $4 million on a German submarine sale to Egypt by owning shares in one of the German manufacturer's suppliers.

"People realize that realistically, the right wing isn't in danger. It's Netanyahu who is in danger," Gantz told Israel's Army Radio. "This isn't a danger in the security sense, only in the legal sense, because he has to provide explanations for what he did."

Netanyahu denies any wrongdoing and claims the accusations are part of a liberal media's orchestrated witch hunt against him.

Good Housekeeping

10 home renovations to make before you retire

By LAURA WOODS
GOBANKINGRATES.COM

Retirement is on the horizon, and you're thinking about relocating to another city. But before you sell your current house, you might want to consider remodeling parts of your home to increase its value.

10 Garage door replacement

If your garage door is notably banged up or glaringly outdated, consider having a new one installed as part of your home improvement initiative. Doing so can seriously increase the curb appeal of your residence, which will draw more buyers in.

A garage door replacement is a relatively inexpensive home renovation, with the national average price at just $3,470. Expect it to boost your resale value by approximately $3,411, which means you'll recoup 98 percent of the cost.

9 Install manufactured stone veneer

If your home looks good from the outside, buyers will want to see the inside. Make the front exterior of your home the most luxurious on the block by having manufactured stone veneer installed on top of your existing siding.

Unlike many home improvement projects, you can expect to recoup around 97.1 percent of your costs. Budget the national average rate of $8,221 for this upgrade, and expect it to increase your home's resale value by an estimated $7,986.

8 Deck addition

Buyers value a home with a nice outdoor space. Even if your local area only has a few warm months per year, chances are that whoever buys your home wants a deck to enjoy the pleasant weather while it lasts.

If your home doesn't have one, think about adding a new deck to your home renovation list. The national average cost of a wooden deck addition is $10,950, but you should recover roughly $9,065, which is an 82.8 percent return on investment. If you opt for a composite deck addition, plan to spend around $17,668 and increase your resale value by roughly $11,239, providing a 63.6 return on your investment.

7 Minor kitchen remodel

The kitchen is the most important room in the house in the mind of most buyers, according to real estate site Zillow. Consequently, if you can't remember the last time yours was upgraded, it should be a priority in your home renovations.

The national average cost of a mid-range minor kitchen remodel is $21,198. It will add around $17,193 to your resale value, so you'll recoup approximately 82.8 percent.

Since a kitchen remodel is often the most necessary but not the most lucrative home renovation, Zillow recommends focusing on the most eye-catching areas, including countertops, cabinets, appliances, outlets, backsplash and flooring. In some cases, a coat of paint or a little sandpaper might make a world of difference, so try to salvage what you have before investing in all new upgrades.

6 Siding replacement

The shape of the siding on your home is the very first impression most buyers will have. If it's in poor condition or an outdated color, potential buyers might assume the inside matches the outside and keep on driving without stopping for a tour.

The national average cost of a siding replacement is $15,072. This home improvement project should add around $11,554 worth of resale value, which is a 76.7 percent return on investment.

Choosing the right siding colors makes all the difference, so Better Homes and Gardens recommends taking a number of factors into consideration, including the color scheme of your neighborhood and the architecture of your home. The magazine also suggests applying swatches of your favorite paint choices on different sides of your home and evaluating them at different times of day, so you can make an informed decision.

5 Bathroom remodel

If your bathroom has a blue tub or pink tile lining the walls, updating it in a home renovation will increase the resale value of your home. The national average cost of a mid-range bathroom remodel is $19,134, and it garners a return on investment of roughly $13,422, which is 70.1 percent.

Because this home remodeling project is important but not necessarily the most profitable, handle it wisely. Repairing or replacing tile, floors and walls make a bathroom more appealing to buyers, according to home services site Angie's List. It also recommends adding a wow factor, such as a large glass shower enclosure, an attractive tile detail or a striking vanity.

4 Roof replacement

Most buyers aren't keen on purchasing a property and immediately having to sink even more cash into it. If your roof is nearing its expiration date, consider replacing it.

The national average cost of a roof replacement is $20,939, and it adds approximately $14,320 to your resale value, bringing your return on investment to 68.4 percent. Potential buyers might not immediately notice your home remodeling project, but a new roof could be a deciding factor for those very serious about making an offer.

3 Bathroom addition

Many older homes with multiple bedrooms were only built with one bathroom. While this setup worked fine for your family, modern buyers aren't so keen on having one bathroom for the entire household.

If most homes in the same price range in your local area have multiple bathrooms, you will probably benefit from adding another. The national average cost of a mid-range bathroom addition is $44,717. This home improvement project will increase the value of your home by an estimated $26,769, providing a 59.9 percent return on investment.

2 Major kitchen remodel

As noted earlier, the kitchen is a major focal point for buyers. If yours is in such bad shape that a minor kitchen remodel just won't cut it, you might want to spring for a major kitchen overhaul.

This type of home remodeling project would likely necessitate most — if not all — upgrades involved in a mid-range kitchen remodel plus something more involved, such as changing the entire layout of the room to a more functional, open setup.

The national average for a mid-range major kitchen overhaul is $63,829. Expect to recoup about 59 percent of your investment, as it will add approximately $37,637 to your resale value.

1 Master suite addition

You've done just fine all these years without a master suite, but this feature is coveted by many modern buyers. If this home renovation makes sense to attract buyers in your local market, consider building out a new master bedroom suite that includes a private bath, walk-in closet and dressing area.

Budget the national average cost of approximately $123,420 for a mid-range master suite, and expect it to boost your resale value by around $69,807, representing a 56.6 percent return on your investment.

GOBankingRates.com () is a leading portal for personal finance news and features, offering visitors the latest information on everything from interest rates to strategies on saving money, managing a budget and getting out of debt.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Gaudelia Castro Magofna Pua

Lovingly known as Elang

Was born on September 30, 1940 and went to her new home to meet our Lord on April 3, 2019.

In her new life, †Gaudelia M. Pua will be reunited with her:

Husband: †Jesus S. Pua
Daughter: †Elphidia Georgia M. Pua
Father: †George F. Magofna
Mother: †Maria C. Magofna
Brothers: †Pedro C. Magofna
†Ramon C. Magofna
Father-in-law: †Juan Pua
Mother-in-law: †Juana S. Pua

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her

Sister: Maria Esther M. Aldan
Children: **Rudolfo M. Pua**/Irene C. Pua (Sheldeen Maria P. Yiftheg/ Thomas Jose I. Yiftheg [Ehphirene, Michael Rudolfo, Therese Jacinta, Joseph Ramon Sheldon, and Benedict Peter Paul], Sharmaine Neliga Lulugumei C. Pua, Shaneese Trindelia C. Pua, Shenille Haruno C. Pua, Shizelle Rudene C. Pua, Maria Ramona C. Pua and Rudolfo C. Pua Jr.
Loran M. Pua (Melina R. Salas/Manning M. Salas [Zyrah Tehani Salas]
Frederico M. Pua/Ning L. Pua (Angelia L. Pua)
Pauline P. Arurang/Francisco K. Arurang (Hank Lugufel P. Arurang Jr., Conseco John P. Arurang and Chicko Hensus P. Arurang/Jeromalyn W. Santos
Remedio Margarita M. Pua
Norbert M. Pua/Gayle N. Pua (Louvicki Francile N. Camacho, Jesus Marino N. Pua, Jovina Cecilia N. Pua, Levonnie Delia N. Pua
Juan George M. Pua/Silva Frances C. Celis (Elphidia Deliana C. Pua/ Enrique S. Cepeda), Juan George M. Pua II, Hayashi Daniel C. Pua

She will also be greatly missed by her numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Daily mass of intention is offered at 6:00 p.m., followed by the rosary at 7:00 pm at Santa Remedios Church.

On Thursday, April 11, 2019, Gaudelia M. Pua will be escorted from the CHCC Morgue to Santa Remedios Church at 7:30 a.m. Responso services and rosary will commence upon arrival of remains, last respects and public viewing will be held right after.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. with interment services to follow immediately at Tanapag Cemetery where she will be laid to peaceful rest.

Your thoughts and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

Thank you yan Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen I famagu'on Gaudelia M. Pua

Life & Style

Game of Thrones: Why Sansa could win it all

AP
This photo of released by HBO shows Sean Bean portraying Eddard Stark in "Game of Thrones."

WASHINGTON (AP)— Where most "Game of Thrones" fans were horrified by the beheading of the beloved Ned Stark and blamed it on a ruthless king, Columbia University business professor Bruce Craven saw a lesson in failed leadership.

The northerner Stark was simply too proud to adjust to the cutthroat nature of King's Landing as it became mired in a scramble over royal succession. His execution set into motion battles, intrigues, romances and resurrections that will culminate this Sunday with the show's highly-anticipated final season.

In the AP's weekly "Wealth of Westeros" series, we'll be delving into the latest plot twists and analyzing the economic and business forces driving the story. We examine the show's central question in Part 1: Who will win the Iron Throne?

The judgment of Craven and other academic minds may surprise you: Sansa Stark, Ned's eldest daughter.

Sansa has grown from a once-helpless princess with dreams of lemon cakes into a wily strategist. She has endured marriages that were degrading and abusive, finding ways to adapt and survive that her late father could never manage.

"She's had probably the closest involvement with the widest array of different leaders," said Craven, who has written a new business book, "Win or Die: Leadership Secrets from Game of Thrones ."

Sansa has learned from Littlefinger's manipulations. She's seen the pitfalls from what Craven calls Cersei's "transactional" approach to leadership. And she's seen her kinsman Jon Snow's idealism transform him from a brooding teenager into a military commander capable of challenging the zombie army of the Night King.

This education might be the ultimate advantage, even if she lacks the firepower of Daenerys Targaryen's dragons or the Valyrian steel sword wielded by Jon Snow.

"She doesn't have dragons. She didn't learn to become an assassin," added Craven, who admits his prediction is just a hunch. "Everything she's gone through, part of me wants to see her leverage that in some unpredictable way."

Sansa does enjoy a major edge in terms of resources, said Mark Wright, research director at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. From the U.S. Civil War to World War II, victorious armies have often gained a decisive edge by having the best equipment, stable supply lines and multitudes of soldiers. Her perceived rivals for the throne are running close to empty militarily and economically.

Thanks to her feeble cousin Robin Arryn, the Knights of the Vale are under her command. Her troops are the freshest and arguably best provisioned, given the Vale's rich soil that provides for wheat, corn, barley and enviously large pumpkins.

Her rivals have suffered the destruction of their farmland and the depletion of their armies after years of warfare and the occasional scorched-earth dragon attack.

"I think it was Napoleon who said an army marches on its stomach," Wright said.

Not everyone, however, is convinced that Sansa will rule.

The betting markets have picked Bran Stark, her mystical and disabled brother.

He might also seem like an unexpected pick. Bran has the ability to journey through time. This gives him an oracular power, but it has extinguished his former emotional warmth for cold prophecies. He seems too detached from humanity to sit on the Iron Throne or establish the personal connections that a ruler would need to rally a weary populace.

But to economists, his popularity on the betting markets matters a lot.

The market is the closest thing the public has to a three-eyed raven. It can forecast the future by distilling the wisdom of the crowds. The stock and bond markets do this daily.

He has no charisma and can't fight, and the show suggested last season that he's no longer even a Stark. But Boyle Sports gives him 4/5 odds. He's the top pick on Bovada, too. And on Oddschecker. And Gambling.com.

Huffman, 12 other parents to plead guilty in college scheme

BOSTON (AP)—"Desperate Housewives" star Felicity Huffman and a dozen other prominent parents have agreed to plead guilty in the college admissions bribery scam that ensnared wealthy families and athletic coaches at some of the nation's most selective universities, federal authorities said Monday.

The actress and the other parents were charged last month in the scheme, which authorities say involved rigging standardized test scores and bribing coaches at such prestigious schools as Yale and Georgetown.

Huffman, 56, was accused of paying a consultant $15,000 disguised as a charitable donation to boost her daughter's SAT score. Authorities say the actress also discussed going through with the same plan for her younger daughter but ultimately decided not to.

She will plead guilty to a single charge of conspiracy and fraud, according to court documents. Those charges are punishable by up to 20 years in prison, but the plea agreement indicates prosecutors will seek a sentence of four to 10 months.

Huffman

Experts have said they expect some parents will avoid prison time if they quickly accept responsibility. All of the defendants will have to return to Boston to enter formal guilty pleas, but no new court dates were set.

Other parents charged in the scheme include prominent figures in law, finance, fashion, the food and beverage industry and other fields.

It's the biggest college admissions case ever prosecuted by the Justice Department. The scandal embroiled elite universities across the country and laid bare the lengths to which status-seeking parents will go to secure their children a coveted spot.

The consultant, Rick Singer, met with Huffman and her husband, 69-year-old actor William H. Macy, at their Los Angeles home and explained to them that he "controlled" a testing center and could have somebody secretly change their daughter's answers, authorities said. Singer told investigators Huffman and her husband agreed to the plan.

Macy was not charged. Authorities have not said why.

In a statement offering her first public comments since her arrest, Huffman apologized, took responsibility for her actions and said she would accept the consequences.

"My daughter knew absolutely nothing about my actions, and in my misguided and profoundly wrong way, I have betrayed her. This transgression toward her and the public I will carry for the rest of my life. My desire to help my daughter is no excuse to break the law or engage in dishonesty," she said.

The streaming service Netflix said Monday that the April 26 release date of a film starring Huffman, called "Otherhood," will be moved with a new release date to be determined.

Michael Center, the former men's tennis coach at the University of Texas at Austin, has also agreed to plead guilty, prosecutors said Monday. Center was accused of accepting nearly $100,000 to help a non-tennis playing applicant get admitted as a recruit.

California real estate developer Bruce Isackson and his wife, Davina Isackson, who are pleading guilty to participating in both the athletic recruitment and exam rigging schemes, are cooperating with prosecutors for a chance at a lighter sentence.

"We have worked cooperatively with the prosecutors and will continue to do so as we take full responsibility for our bad judgment," they said in a statement.

Univision unloads Gizmodo and The Onion to private equity firm

NEW YORK (AP)—Univision has sold tech site Gizmodo, satirical-news hub The Onion and other English-language sites to the private equity firm Great Hill Partners. Terms were not disclosed.

The Spanish-language broadcaster bought much of what was then known as Gawker Media for $135 million in 2016 after the gossipy, confrontational media company lost a privacy suit against Hulk Hogan. (The original Gawker.com has a different owner. It is being relaunched by another digital media company, Bustle.)

Just a few years ago, Univision was investing in English-language digital sites aimed at young people. It had bought The Onion in January 2016 and African-American news site The Root in 2015.

But the strategy didn't turn out well. The sites were not profitable and the company has refocused on Spanish TV. Univision, based in New York, put them up for sale last summer.

Several digital-media companies have recently run into trouble. For example, BuzzFeed laid off workers to help it become profitable, while Mic sold itself to Bustle after firing most of its employees. The online-ad business is dominated by tech giants Google and Facebook. Amazon is also encroaching on that space.

Great Hill said Monday that it's calling its new media company "G/O Media." The collection of sites also includes the female-focused Jezebel, sports site Deadspin and pop-culture site "A.V. Club." James Spanfeller, a digital-media veteran who is the former Forbes.com CEO, will lead the company and is also a "significant" investor in it.

Great Hill has previously invested in media companies, including Ziff Davis, the publisher of PCMag.com, which it sold in 2012.

Bush Foundation wants retired Air Force One plane in museum

HOUSTON (AP)—The George and Barbara Bush Foundation has asked that an Air Force One plane set for retirement in 2025 be permanently exhibited at the late president's museum at Texas A&M.

If approved, the U.S. Air Force would permanently loan the Boeing VC-25A to the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station, Texas, the Houston Chronicle reported. Bush died Nov. 30 at age 94, just months after the death of former first lady Barbara Bush, his wife of 73 years.

"He had such a personal history with flying and that plane. He loved the plane," said Jim McGrath, vice president of the Bush Foundation and the couple's primary representative in their final years.

Air Force One was introduced during World War II to ensure the president's safe passage. The plane targeted for the presidential library was brought into service in 1990, during George H.W. Bush's presidency.

The 41st president was particularly happy about the plan to house the aircraft at his museum after he was shown renderings of the glass building that would encase it.

He "was very excited about it," said David Jones, the president of the foundation. "I just remember him beaming. He just thought it was a wonderful idea."

If approved and once declassified, the aircraft could be on display as soon as 2026. Jones said visitors to the museum and library's 90-acre (36 hectares) grounds would have the opportunity to board the plane.

In this Dec. 30, 1991, file photo, then U.S. President George H. Bush, accompanied by first lady Barbara, makes farewell remarks before departing Andrews Air Force Base, Md., for a trip to Australia and Asia. AP

Heather Wilson, the secretary of the Air Force, said in an email to the newspaper that the Bush Foundation's request was under review.

The Air Force is "committed to honoring and preserving the historical significance of the aircraft," she wrote.

The foundation is also working with transportation company Union Pacific to acquire the engine of the George Bush 4141 locomotive that carried his casket to the library in December, Jones said. The train's display could be completed as early as next year.

In January, the foundation started a $130 million fundraising drive called the "Campaign for Bold Horizons" to subsidize new exhibitions and features at the museum and library that opened in 1997.

'Smallville' actress pleads guilty in sex-trafficking case

NEW YORK (AP)—TV actress Allison Mack pleaded guilty Monday to charges she was involved in a scheme to turn women into sex slaves for the spiritual leader of a cult-like upstate New York group, a development that came on the same day jury selection began for a federal trial in the case.

Mack, 36, wept as she admitted her crimes and apologized to the women who prosecutors say were exploited by Keith Raniere and the purported self-help group called NXIVM.

"I believed Keith Raniere's intentions were to help people, and I was wrong," Mack told a Brooklyn judge.

Mack—best known for her role as a young Superman's close friend on the series "Smallville" - said that after months of reflection since her arrest, "I know I can and will be a better person."

The actress is to be sentenced Sept. 11 on two racketeering counts that each carry maximum terms of 20 years in prison. However, it's likely she would face far less time under sentencing guidelines.

The plea means Mack will avoid going to trial with Raniere, wealthy heiress Clare Bronfman and another member of Raniere's inner circle, Kathy Russell. All have pleaded not guilty and denied any wrongdoing.

About two hours after Mack's guilty plea, potential jurors got their first glimpse of the jailed Raniere at a proceeding where they were instructed on questionnaires to be filled out as a first step in the selection process. Opening statements are scheduled for April 29 for a trial that is expected to last up to six weeks.

The question of who would be seated at the defense table that day had remained unanswered in the wake of new allegations that Raniere exploited a teenage girl. The accusations gave his co-defendants even further incentive to seek separate trials and engage in plea negotiations.

Court papers allege NXIVM formed a secret society of women who were branded with Raniere's initials and forced to have sex with him. Defense attorneys have insisted any relationship between Raniere and the alleged victims, including an unidentified actress and other women expected to testify against him at trial, was consensual.

On Monday, Mack said that at Raniere's direction, she obtained compromising information and images of two unidentified women—called "collateral" within the group—that she threatened to make public if they didn't perform "so-called acts of love."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Nipsey Hussle to be mourned in memorial at Los Angeles arena

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rapper Nipsey Hussle will be mourned at a public memorial Thursday at Staples Center in Los Angeles. The website for the 21,000-seat downtown arena says free tickets will become available at 10 a.m. Tuesday for the event that organizers are calling Nipsey Hussle's Celebration of Life. The memorial begins at 10 a.m. Thursday. No details were given about who may be appearing, performing or speaking. Hussle, a 33-year-old father of two and a hip-hop artist as beloved for his work in his community as his music, was fatally shot March 31 while standing outside his South Los Angeles clothing store. Two days later, police arrested Eric R. Holder Jr. in the killing and on Thursday prosecutors charged him with murder. Holder has pleaded not guilty.

Fans of 'Queer Eye' show raise $90,000 for Kansas woman

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP)—A woman whose experience of being kicked out of her home as a 16-year-old because she's a lesbian was highlighted on the Netflix show "Queer Eye" has a fresh shot at college after fans raised enough to pay off her student loans. The show tells the story of 23-year-old Jess Guilbeaux attempting to put herself through college at the University of Kansas before dropping out due to debt. It led a supporter to set up a GoFundMe last month, with a goal of raising $100,000 to "Send Jess Back to College!" More than $90,000 has been raised so far. GoFundMe spokesperson Aja Shepherd told The Wichita Eagle reports that Guilbeaux managed to pay off her loans thanks to the generosity of people around the world. The university declined to comment.

Spectator charged with assaulting WWE star Bret Hart

NEW YORK (AP)—Authorities say a spectator faces assault and trespassing charges after tackling wrestler Bret "The Hitman" Hart while he was giving a speech during the WWE Hall of Fame ceremony in Brooklyn. Bail was set at $1,500 for Zachary Madsen of Lincoln, Nebraska at a hearing on Sunday night. The judge also issued orders of protection barring Madsen from approaching Hart, who wasn't hurt, and a security worker. Other wrestlers helped subdue the attacker. Hart resumed his speech. Prosecutors said in court that Madsen told police that he "felt like it was right moment" to go after the wrestling legend. His lawyer said Madsen is "agreeable and cooperative" and has no criminal convictions. WWE described Madsen as "an over-exuberant fan." Madsen had a previous run-in with a fighter in Lincoln.

News of son's open marriage leaves his parents in shock

DEAR ABBY: I am extremely upset. My son got married a year ago. We were very happy and have welcomed his wife into our family. He met us for lunch yesterday and announced that he and his wife have a polyamorous relationship. They will stay married, but both of them will date and have long-term relationships with other people.

My husband and I are in shock. We have been married for more than 30 years and have always been faithful to each other. We thought we had set a good example. They are asking to be able to bring other boyfriends and girlfriends to our family events. I'm heartsick at the thought of watching them be affectionate with other partners. My granddaughter was a flower girl at their wedding. How do we explain this to her?

I love my son, but does a relationship with him mean I have to abandon the values I have always felt were important to uphold? Right now he isn't speaking to me because he thinks I was not supportive enough when he told me. I feel like I'm being forced to accept this new lifestyle or not see my son. How should I handle this?

DUMBFOUNDED IN DALLAS

DEAR DUMBFOUNDED: Unless you are raising your granddaughter, you don't have to explain anything. That will be her parents' responsibility if they decide to expose her to your son and daughter-in-law's lifestyle.

As to your being forced to entertain his and his wife's lovers, if it makes you uncomfortable—which appears to be the case—you are under no obligation to do so. Handle this by standing your ground and refusing to be emotionally blackmailed.

Your son is an adult and entitled to live his life any way he wishes. However, this does not mean that you must endorse it. Tell him you would love to see just him and his wife when they are spending time together.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my husband, "Ken," for 34 years. At home, he doesn't pay much attention to me. Although he's generally helpful around the house, he puts his needs first. Because we run a small business together, we are together most of the time.

When we go over to friends' for dinner or to a party, Ken complains that I don't talk with him enough or notice if he's alone and not engaged in conversation. He feels I should be more aware of him and stay by his side. I am more outgoing than he is. I make conversation easily and find people to be involved with.

Is he right? Should his needs be more on my radar? Shouldn't I have the freedom to enjoy those around me, assuming that Ken can take care of himself? I know he's less at ease in social situations, but I need interaction with others.

WONDERING WHAT'S RIGHT IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR WONDERING: Knowing Ken isn't as socially adept as you, the kind thing would be to keep an eye on him at these dinners/parties to make sure he isn't isolated. If he is standing by himself, ask him to join in the conversations you are having. Not every couple is equally outgoing, and it may be a bit of a balancing act, but supportive spouses make an effort to compensate for the other's deficits if asked to, as your husband has.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

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Garfield®

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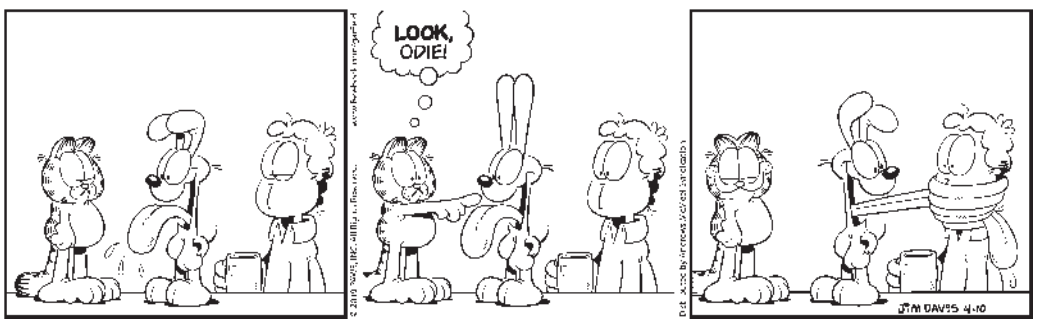
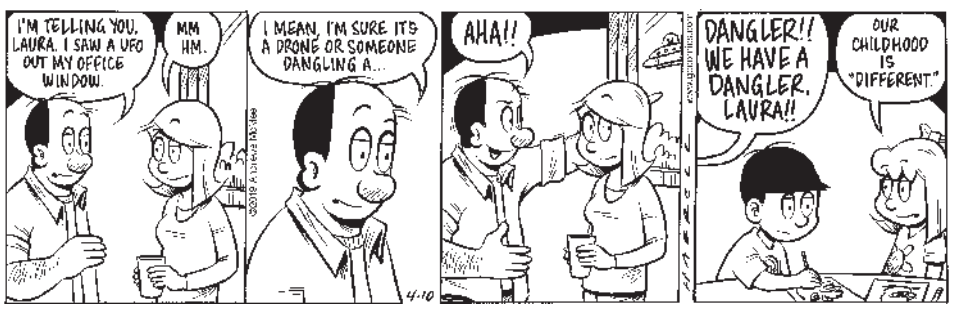


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'M TELLING YOU, LAURA. I SAW A UFO OUT MY OFFICE WINDOW.
MM HM.
I MEAN, I'M SURE IT'S A DRONE OR SOMEONE DANGLING A...
AHA!!
DANGLER!! WE HAVE A DANGLER, LAURA!!
OUR CHILDHOOD IS "DIFFERENT."

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Felines
5 Discoverer's call
8 Brewer's kiln
12 Owl call
13 Massage
14 Leg joint
15 Not-so-noble protagonist
17 Rat- —
18 Green sauce
19 Realm
21 Penny
24 Help
25 Persian leader
28 Knitter's need
30 Assoc.
33 Bit of wit
34 Rehab process
35 — chi
36 Even so
37 Slanted type (Abbr.)
38 Darned
39 Hollywood's Lupino
41 Take five
43 Burning
46 Leslie of "Gigi"
50 Songs for one
51 Daughter of Oedipus
54 Mon. follower
55 Half of XIV
56 Send forth
57 Teeny
58 Ecol. watchdog
59 Pixels

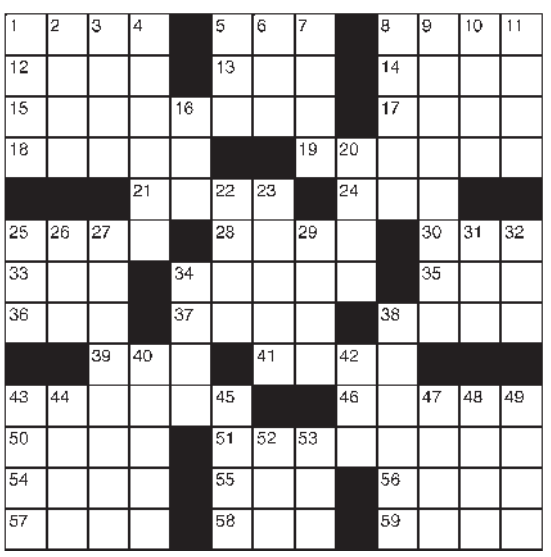
DOWN

1 Bloke
2 First-rate
3 Youngsters
4 Do needlework
5 Raw mineral
6 "Ben- —"
7 Slender woodwind
8 Giraffe's kin
9 Poison remedy
10 Char
11 Head, to Henri
16 Weeding tool
20 Tailless cat
22 Russian refusal
23 Early Mongolian
25 Covert agent
26 Coloration
27 Cuba, Jamaica, etc.
29 Actor's quest
31 Cold and damp
32 Tonic's mixer
34 Actress Cameron
38 Put on, as a play
40 Dagwood's dog
42 High school subj.
43 Wine region
44 Boxing match
45 Roof overhang
47 Former Dallas QB Tony
48 Taking action
49 Tennis barriers
52 Wee bite
53 Spanish aunt

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	P	E	S		B	A	G		A	Q	U	A
L	A	M	A		C	A	R		_	U	G	S
P	R	I	M	R	O	S	E		M	I	_	E
			B	U	M		M	Y	O	P	I	C
S	P	L	A	T		P	L	A	N			
L	U	I	S		T	R		M	D	O	W	N
J	A	L		R	A	I	N	S		R	H	O
G	R	I	M	A	C	E	S		I	S	I	S
			E	M	T	S		G	N	O	M	E
S	C	A	M	P	I		G	U	S			
P	O	L	O		C	R		M	I	N	A	L
O	M	A	R		A	I	R		S	A	G	A
T	O	N	Y		L	O	L		T	H	E	Y

Yesterday's answer 4-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alex Pettyfer, 29; Haley Joel Osment, 31; Shay Mitchell, 32; Dion Phaneuf, 34.

Happy Birthday: Mental, physical and spiritual travel will lead to personal growth and a better understanding of what you want out of life. Revisit the past, and tie up loose ends that need to be put to rest. Refuse to let anyone manipulate or coerce you into something that will stop you from reaching the destination that will contribute to your happiness. Your numbers are 6, 11, 17, 24, 31, 37, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Learn from experience, try new things and point out if someone is doing something that is likely to cause you grief or stand in your way. Being honest about your intentions will help you avoid interference. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't dwell on the impossible. Concentrate on what you can do, and make a point to clear up any unfinished project, business or situation that needs to be resolved. Having a clean slate will lead to new beginnings. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Put your energy into something that counts, not into helping someone else advance. If you take on too much or contribute to something that isn't going to benefit you directly, you will have regrets. Choose your associates carefully. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Settle any differences you have and move on. Don't let an emotional matter spin out of control when a little ingenuity and discipline will help you stifle an unnecessary conflict. Negotiate contracts personally to avoid disappointment. Financial gain is heading your way. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Call in favors, and get together with people you have worked with. You'll be offered inside information that will help you make a worthwhile move. Be open to suggestions, but do the legwork necessary to reach your goal. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Evaluate partnerships and consider any adjustments you can make to even out responsibilities. Emotional anger won't help you get what you want, but a solid plan that is based on equality will. Choose love and romance over arguments and discord. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Live and learn. Don't hold a grudge, but don't forget what's happened in the past. Staying neutral will make a difference in the way you handle others as well as how you deal with responsibilities. Keep your emotions hidden. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Let go of the past and those who have caused drama in your life. Pay off old debts, and set guidelines that will help you better handle your personal finances. Aim to eliminate stress, and incorporate discipline and stability. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Put your energy where it counts. If you waste time bickering with someone over something that is petty or can end up making you look bad, you'll have regrets. Make personal changes that improve your emotional well-being. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Look at what you can accomplish, and implement the changes necessary to reach your goal. Fix up your surroundings to suit your needs. Having a place to develop a project or pursuit you want to achieve will enhance your success. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Get back to basics. Open your doors to people working toward a similar goal or those wanting to pitch in and help you bring about positive changes. Self-improvement and distancing yourself from bad influences are in your best interest. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't let emotions come between you and common sense. Arguing will be a waste of time. Choose the best way to offer your services, suggestions or hands-on help without paying for something that isn't your debt. Avoid indulgent behavior. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are giving, open-minded and carefree. You are current and trendy.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			1					
	6		8		2			
	3	9				7		
	4						9	
6								1
3	9					2	5	6
	5		6	4			1	
	1		5	2			7	
	2	6	1	7	3	8	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	7	9	4	1	3	8	6	5
5	6	3	8	7	9	4	2	1
4	8	1	2	6	5	7	3	9
8	4	5	1	3	2	6	9	7
3	1	7	6	9	8	2	5	4
6	9	2	7	5	4	1	8	3
9	2	4	5	8	1	3	7	6
1	3	6	9	2	7	5	4	8
7	5	8	3	4	6	9	1	2

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BIRKENSTOCKS Solution: 4 letters

C	R	R	E	L	B	B	O	C	S	K	C	O	S	S
E	R	A	E	L	I	R	A	Y	A	M	L	Ⓛ	T	D
N	L	A	E	L	O	C	I	U	Y	A	Ⓡ	A	E	C
T	I	B	F	W	B	S	N	C	T	Ⓐ	L	B	A	S
U	E	N	A	T	T	I	T	E	Ⓚ	F	T	S	D	K
R	N	L	S	W	S	O	X	U	L	O	U	M	Y	C
I	A	H	B	E	E	M	O	E	O	A	A	A	I	O
E	T	I	X	A	R	N	A	F	L	D	N	D	N	T
S	U	P	P	O	R	T	E	N	A	F	E	R	O	S
S	R	P	R	A	H	U	S	R	S	P	I	I	N	N
E	A	I	T	E	L	E	D	O	O	H	S	D	T	E
N	L	E	R	B	B	R	Z	H	K	A	I	R	O	K
T	P	S	K	R	I	B	T	I	A	S	I	P	X	R
I	N	S	O	L	E	R	U	A	G	E	S	K	I	U
F	M	A	R	G	O	T	F	R	A	S	E	R	C	F

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Adam, Ages, Birks, Blue, Casual, Centuries, Cobbler, Craftsmanship, Durable, Fitness, Flats, Flexible, Footbed, Footwear, Fraser, Furkenstocks, Gizeh, Hippies, Inserts, Insole, Kairo, Karl, Latex, Leather, Madrid, Margot, Mayari, Natural, Nontoxic, Orthopedic, Outsole, PETA, Pisa, Renewable, Rick, Rubber, Siena, Socks, Steady, Support, Unisex, Yara

Yesterday's Answer: Krueger

Treasuries 13 through 18 and **20 through 34** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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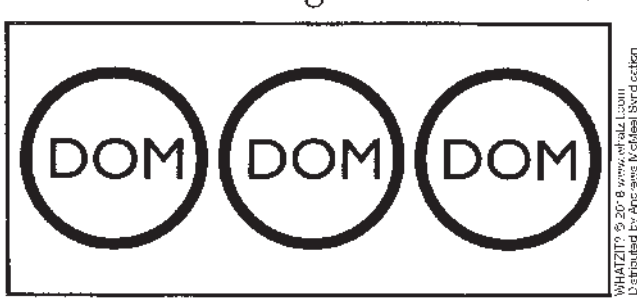
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in classified section

Virginia escapes past Texas Tech in OT

AP
Texas Tech guard Matt Mooney, right, tries to steal the ball from Virginia guard Kihei Clark during the second half in the championship game of the NCAA college basketball tournament, Monday, April 8, 2019, in Minneapolis.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Now that, Virginia, is the way to close out a season.

And quiet those critics, too.

Led by De'Andre Hunter and his NBA-ready game, the Cavaliers turned themselves into national champions Monday night, holding off tenacious, ferocious Texas Tech for an 85-77 overtime win—a scintillating victory that came 388 days after a crushing setback that might have sunk a lesser team for years.

But Virginia was better than that.

A season after becoming the first No. 1 seed to lose to a 16— the one thing that had never happened in a tournament where anything can—the Cavaliers watched a 10-point lead turn into a 3-point deficit before Hunter came to the rescue. The sophomore made the game-tying 3 with 12 seconds left in regulation, then made another with just over two minutes left in the extra period to give the Cavs the lead for good.

"Surreal," Hunter called it. "It's a goal we started out with at the beginning of the season. We knew we were going to bounce back from last year. We achieved our dreams."

After going without a field goal for the first 18 1/2 minutes, Hunter finished with a career-high 27 points, and if he leaves as a lottery pick—well, what a way to go.

He helped the Cavs bring home the first NCAA title for a program with a colorful, star-crossed and, now, very winning history.

Ralph Sampson was in the house, and now it's possible that Sampson and the name "Chaminade" won't be at the top of Virginia's resume anymore.

Or "University of Maryland-Baltimore County." That was the No. 16 seed that stunned the Cavs in the first round last year, its playful social media manager online Monday night tweeting congratulations shortly after the final buzzer. Hunter missed that game with a broken wrist, but nobody thought they'd miss him THAT much.

Each of Virginia's 34 wins leading to the final, and each of its scant three losses, was punctuated by the reminder that only the end result would serve as the ultimate report card on whether the Cavs could truly shed the baggage of last year.

What a ride this was.

A 1 seed once again, they fell behind by 14 early to 16th-seeded Gardner-Webb in this year's opening round, and a nightmare seemed to be repeating itself. But this time, they overcame it. Then, they beat Purdue in the Elite Eight when the game looked lost, and did the same against Auburn on Saturday—getting bailed out by a foul call and Kyle Guy's three free throws with 0.6 seconds left.

"I told them, I just want a chance at a title fight one day," Virginia coach Tony Bennett said. "That's all I want. ... You're never alone in the hills and the valleys we faced in the last year."

Hunter's key 3 in OT gave Virginia a 75-73 lead, and after the teams traded possessions, Tech guard Davide Moretti scrambled after a loose ball heading onto Virginia's end of the court. It appeared it would be Texas Tech ball, but a replay showed Moretti's pinkie finger had barely scraped the ball. Virginia got possession, and worked the ball into Ty Jerome, who got fouled and made two free throws.

Brandone Francis missed a 3 on the other end, and Virginia pulled away—the first time this game felt remotely comfortable, even after Guy made a 3 to give the Cavs a 10-point lead with 10:22 left in regulation.

Guy is not Virginia's only clutch free-throw shooter, by the way. The Cavs went 12 for 12 from the line in overtime to ice this game. They scored the game's final 11 points.

As for the Red Raiders (31-7), well, what can you say?

The team full of overlooked grinders refused to quit.

They fell behind by 10 twice in this game—seemingly too much in a matchup between two legendary defenses that allowed way more than the total of 118 points predicted by sportsbooks—but just kept coming back.

Jarrett Culver, also lottery-pick material, made a spinning left-handed layup over Hunter with 35 seconds left in regulation to put the Red Raiders ahead 66-65. After Jerome missed a teardrop on the other end, Norense Odiase got fouled and made two free throws to make it 68-65.

The nation's best defense couldn't afford to give up a 3, but Jerome skipped a pass to Hunter, who was open on the wing—and spotted up and drained it. Culver missed a 3 with Guy in his face with a second left, and we were headed to overtime, the first extra session in the final since Kansas beat Memphis in 2008.

"In terms of my guys, I've never been more proud," Red Raiders coach Chris Beard said. "This is real life. We'll bounce back."

The last five minutes of regulation and the OT featured several one-on-one matchups between the two NBA-bound stars, and Hunter came out the winner. He finished 8 for 16 after an 0-for-7 start. Culver, who stayed in his hometown of Lubbock to see how far he could take Tech, went 5 for 22 for 15 points, continuing a cold-shooting Final Four; he went 8 for 34 over the weekend.

Both will likely move on to the NBA. Hunter will go there with a title.

And somebody on Virginia ought to grab that sign.

In the stands, a fan made a cardboard sign with the capital letters "UMBC" running vertically, and this spelled out after each letter:

"Uva."

"Makes."

"Big."

"Comeback."

The Cavs couldn't have written it any better themselves.

Offensive adjustments lead Cavaliers to first title

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)— Virginia got its redemption—thanks to its offense, not its vaunted defense.

Riding the broad shoulders of De'Andre Hunter, Virginia beat Texas Tech 85-77 in overtime Monday night to win the program's first national title.

Defensively-minded, the Cavaliers (35-3) turned a night of adjustments against Texas Tech's vaunted defense into one of college basketball's great redemption stories.

The loss to No. 16 UMBC will never be erased, but the taste has turned from sour to sweet in a year.

Hunter was the catalyst, scoring 27 points and grabbing nine rebounds. He had plenty of help from Virginia's better-than-last-year offense. Kyle Guy scored 24 points, Ty Jerome 16 and the Cavaliers made 11 3-pointers against the most efficient defense the past 17 years.

It took a night of schematic counterpunching to get the Wahoos to the top.

The average sports fan wants to see dunks, baskets in transition, revolving numbers on the scoreboard.

The Red Raiders (31-7) and Cavaliers are not that.

Their game is a different kind of beautiful, one based on brawn and beating a man to his spot.

That's what both teams did early. First media timeout: 5 combined points, one made field goal in nine shots.

The Cavaliers adjusted to the Red Raiders' constant switching by getting the ball to the middle and mixing in motion offense while building a 10-point lead.

Texas Tech spent the early part of the game hoisting up shots at the end of the shot clock as Virginia switched and hard-hedged screens, forcing the Red Raiders well away from the basket.

With coach Chris Beard yelling for them to push the pace, the Red Raiders countered by getting into their offense quicker and moving the ball better. An 18-4 run pulled them within 32-29 at halftime.

The pawns kept changing positions in the second half.

Texas Tech went small when big man Tariq Owens picked up his third foul, so Virginia's Tony Bennett did the same. With more spacing, both teams went on a scoring spree, so Beard put Owens back in. Virginia big man Mamadi Diakite followed him from the scorer's table.

Virginia went up 10 behind Hunter and Guy getting hot, beating the Red Raiders with a series of individual moves.

Moretti, Matt Mooney and Brandone Francis brought Texas Tech back by shooting over the top of the Cavaliers, hitting a string of 3-pointers.

Jerome did his one-on-one thing, beating a defender off the dribble to find Hunter in the corner for a 3-pointer. He knocked it down with 12.9 seconds left, sending the game to overtime.

Hunter hit the big shot in overtime, too, a 3-pointer that put the Cavaliers up 2.

Jerome hit a pair of free throws, then Guy. Diakite did the same and Braxton Key had the exclamation mark with a breakaway dunk.

Defined by its defense, Virginia is national champions because of its offense.

Guy takes Final Four MVP

In a March Madness run full of close calls and late comebacks, it was Virginia's most clutch player that took home the Final Four Most Outstanding Player award.

Guy won the honor after posting 39 points on 13-of-26 shooting between his team's wins over Auburn and Texas Tech at the Final Four. That's a pretty good comeback after posting just six points on 4-of-23 shooting in the first two rounds of the tournament.

Surging Young makes case vs frontrunner Doncic

AP
Atlanta Hawks guard Trae Young (11) defends Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (77) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2018, in Atlanta. Atlanta won 111-104.

ATLANTA—As Luka Doncic tore through the early months of the NBA season and began to run away with the Rookie of the Year award in Dallas, Grant Hill shared a story with Atlanta's Trae Young.

Hill, now a partial owner of the Hawks, revisited his rookie season in 1994-95 when he got off to a great start and was the leading vote-getter for the All-Star Game. He was the sure-fire Rookie of the Year. Until Jason Kidd's excellent second half of the season forced voters to reconsider. Hill and Kidd ended up sharing the award.

"Periodically, I would send him text messages and words of encouragement," Hill said. "I didn't sit down and talk to him, but I said, 'Don't concede Rookie of the Year. Don't give up. There's a lot more basketball to play. Do what your coaches are telling you and play the right way. It's OK to go for it. It's not a selfish thing.' I used the Jason Kidd example."

Now, there is a case to be made for the Hawks point guard as Rookie of the Year.

Young has made it a much closer race than expected with a strong second half of the season. Consider his averages: 19 points on 41.9% shooting from the field and 32.7% on 3-pointers, 8.1 assists and 3.7 rebounds. Doncic, a forward, is at 21.2 points on 42.7% shooting from the field and 32.6% on 3-pointers, 7.7 rebounds and 5.9 assists.

Yes, Doncic had the great start. Young is having a great finish. He is on pace to become just one of three rookies to ever average at least 18 points and eight assists, joining Oscar Robertson and Damon Stoudamire. Young also leads all rookies with nine games of 30 or more points and leads all rookie guards with most 29 double-doubles.

"Besides the one month (November) I didn't shoot the ball well, I think I had a really good season as far as making plays, getting my teammates involved and scoring when needed," Young said. "One thing I wanted to do was bring life back to the city of Atlanta, and we've done a great job of doing that."

The Hawks have a promising future with Young, John Collins, Kevin Huerter and a high lottery pick in the June draft. Imagine Zion Williamson on that roster.

"Him playing at this level where he's in consideration or he even possibly wins Rookie of the Year is good for our team in more ways than one," Hill said.

Young hasn't forgotten stories listing reasons why he would be the 2018 draft's biggest bust. He wouldn't be able to shoot and score in the NBA with the same ease he did in college, his shot selection was questionable and he was too small, critics argued.

"Coming into the season, I wanted to prove everyone wrong," Young said. "I saw articles that said I didn't even have a chance to win it. I still think about that today."

"This is a season-long award," Young said. "Early on, everybody was saying (Doncic) was Rookie of the Year and deservedly so. He was playing really well, and I wasn't playing the best. I was still playing well. In the second half, it's flipped.

"It's starting to sound like it's an early-season award. If that's what people are doing their voting off of, it's going to be tough. If you do a full-season look, it's definitely closer than some people think."

As the season has progressed, Young, who can get better defensively, has continued to improve offensively, and he's been on an All-Star level since Feb. 1, averaging 23.4 points and 9.3 assists and shooting 36.9% on threes.

It is closer, and some NBA players have stumped for Young, too, including Utah's Donovan Mitchell, Los Angeles Lakers' Kyle Kuzma and Detroit's Blake Griffin.

"Growing up and seeing my idols (Griffin and Portland's Damian Lillard) win it, that's the big motivation for me to win it," Young said. "At the end of the day, it's not going to stop me from enjoying the game and having fun."

And this isn't to say Doncic doesn't deserve it. But the situation serves as a cautionary story for early-season performance taking control of a narrative and not examining the entire season.

Let's just say Young put together more of these 30-point, 10-assist games earlier in the season. The highlights Doncic put up early on, Young is putting up in the second half of the season – 49 points, 16 assists against Chicago, 33 and 12 against Philadelphia and 32 and 11 against Philadelphia with spectacular passes and long threes. The narrative might be different.

And except for that bad shooting month in November, Young wasn't horrible early on. He was just learning the position.

"You have to know a lot of things, not only how you have to guard the opposing point guard then you have to know how the defense is going to guard you," Young said. "The second time I was seeing teams, from then on, I got way more comfortable."

Hill recalled an early-season game at the Los Angeles Clippers and noted defenders Patrick Beverley and Avery Bradley were out to stop the rookie.

"OK, this is going to be (a) test," Hill said. "Trae went at them. 'You're going to come at me, I'm going to come at you.' That's what the great ones do. I saw him deliver. That was encouraging. I was impressed. Trae has the mental makeup to be special."

Young had 25 points and 17 assists in that November game. Then shortly after the new year, Hill reminded Young that the Rookie of the Year award isn't secured.

"That's when the switch turned and everything started clicking and I started playing even better," Young said.

Heat face Sixers in must-win home finale

MIAMI—The Miami Heat, who are in a desperate fight to make the playoffs, will close their regular-season home schedule on Tuesday night against the Philadelphia 76ers.

Philadelphia (50-30) has already locked up the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference, but Miami (38-42) has been assured of nothing.

The Heat have lost four straight games and trail the Detroit Pistons (39-41) by one game for the final playoff berth in the East. The Pistons have also lost four games in a row, opening the door for the third team in this fight, the Charlotte Hornets (38-42), who are tied with the Heat but have won three straight games.

With two games left, Miami has control of no tiebreakers. Miami has to win out and hope that Detroit loses both of its games even though the Pistons play the Memphis Grizzlies and New York Knicks—two teams that have a combined record of 48-112.

In addition, Miami would need the red-hot Hornets to drop one of its two games.

"We're going to need some help. The only thing we can control is what we do," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said after a painful 117-109 overtime loss on Sunday at the Toronto Raptors. "We've got to dust this one off, get back to Miami and win the next game."

Because of the odds stacked against the Heat, it is likely that Tuesday's game will become the final home contest in the Hall of Fame career of Miami shooting guard Dwyane Wade, who is retiring at season's end.

Wade, 37, is a 13-time NBA All-Star, a three-time NBA champion and the MVP of the 2006 league finals.

The Heat will honor him before Tuesday's game, although there are no exact details as of yet.

"I know all my family is going to be there," Wade said. "I'm looking forward to closing the chapter."

While there is all that drama regarding the Heat, the 76ers are looking for momentum as they approach the playoffs. They have lost three of their past four games, which means beating Miami would have value for the Sixers as they look toward the postseason.

76ers forward Jimmy Butler has missed three of the past four games due to back tightness. Other than that, the 76ers core is healthy.

Once he gets back, the Sixers—who have won at least 50 games for a second straight season—should be at full throttle.

The 76ers haven't reached the Eastern Conference Finals since 2001 and haven't won the league title since 1983.

"I know how difficult it is," said 76ers coach Brett Brown, who endured some horrific seasons but now has the team pointed in the right direction. "I give our group credit, but the 50-win milestone goes away quickly when the playoffs begin."

The Heat, meanwhile, are just hoping to make it back to the playoffs. After winning two NBA titles during the LeBron James Era (2010-2014), the Heat have won just one playoff round over the past four years. If they fall short of the playoffs this year, it will mark the third such failure in the past five years.

Cleveland's Quicken Loans Arena being renamed

In Cleveland, the massive makeover of Quicken Loans Arena will include a new name.

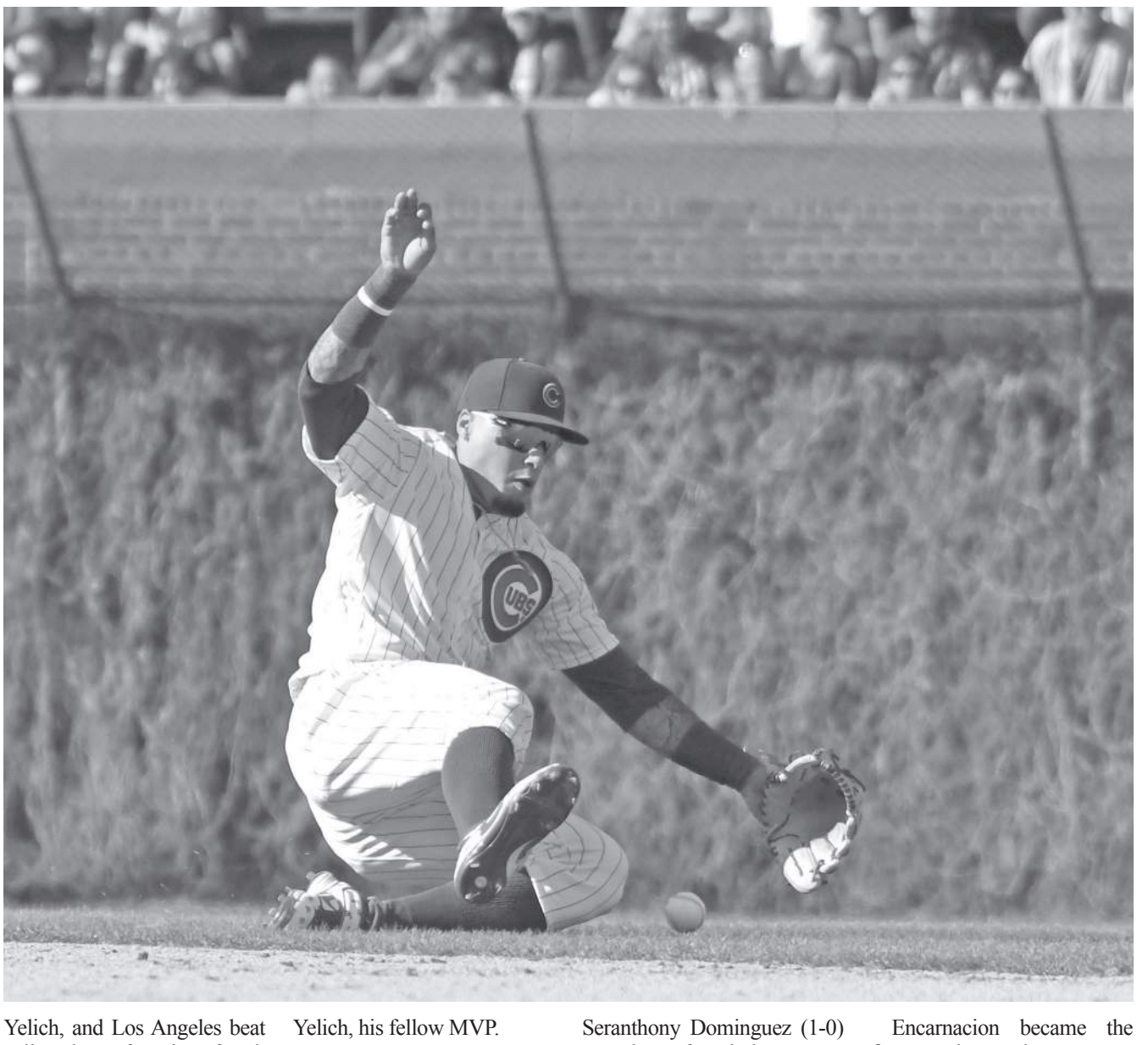
The Cavaliers' downtown home will be renamed Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Monday night. The announcement of the change will be made Tuesday at a news conference, said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because the team is not revealing the nature of the media gathering.

Cubs rout Pirates in opener after Lester departs

CHICAGO (AP)—Kyle Schwarber hit a two-run homer and Chicago's beleaguered bullpen stepped up after Jon Lester departed with left hamstring tightness, leading the Cubs over the Pittsburgh Pirates 10-0 in their home opener on Monday.

Brad Brach, Brandon Kintzler, Randy Rosario and Pedro Strop combined for seven innings of four-hit ball after Lester was removed with two on and no outs in the third. Brach (1-0) pitched two innings for his first win with the Cubs.

Pittsburgh had won four in a row, but it hurt itself with four errors, including three by shortstop Kevin Newman. Jameson Taillon (0-2) was charged with six unearned runs and four hits in two innings.



AP

Chicago Cubs shortstop Javier Baez tries to make a play on a ball hit by Pittsburgh Pirates' Jason Martin during the ninth inning of a baseball game, Monday, April 8, 2019, in Chicago.

Orioles 12, Athletics 4

In Baltimore, Chris Davis went 0 for 5 to set a major league record for the longest hitless streak by a position player, extending his drought to 49 consecutive at-bats in Baltimore's rout of Oakland.

Davis hit three flyballs before striking out in the seventh and eighth innings, leaving him 0 for 28 this season and 0 for 49 since hitting a double early in a game Sept. 14. The previous longest drought by a non-pitcher was 46 at-bats, by Los Angeles Dodgers infielder Eugenio Vélez.

Jonathan Villar homered and had four RBIs, Trey Mancini went 3 for 3 with a homer, Cedric Mullins hit two triples and drove in three runs and rookie shortstop Richie Martin's first multiple-hit game included a triple and a pair of singles.

Astros 4, Yankees 3

In Houston, Jose Altuve hit a long home run and Carlos Correa's broken-bat RBI infield single in the eighth inning helped Houston rally past New York for its fourth straight victory.

Aaron Judge homered off Astros ace Justin Verlander as New York built a 3-1 lead in a matchup between AL powerhouses. Robinson Chirinos tied it with a two-run double in the seventh against Zack Britton.

The game was tied with one out in the eighth when Adam Ottavino (1-1) walked Alex Bregman before a single by Michael Brantley sent Bregman to third. Correa then shattered his bat on a grounder that dribbled down the first base line, allowing Bregman to score.

Angels 5, Brewers 2

In Anaheim, Mike Trout made a leaping catch to steal a potential homer from Christian Yelich, and Los Angeles beat Milwaukee for its fourth straight victory.

Tommy La Stella and Justin Bour each hit a two-run homer. Andrelton Simmons also went deep and Trevor Cahill (1-1) pitched six strong innings in his home debut for the Angels, who have rebounded from a 1-6 start to the season.

Trout's personal streak of four consecutive games with a homer ended when he went 0 for 2 with two walks, but the Angels superstar jumped high on the warning track to take away an extra-base hit from Yelich, his fellow MVP.

Phillies 4, Nationals 3

In Philadelphia, Rhys Hoskins hit two solo homers, Odubel Herrera hit a two-run shot and Philadelphia beat Washington.

Kurt Suzuki and Brian Dozier went deep for the Nationals.

Bryce Harper was 0 for 3 with a walk in his third game against his former team but helped prevent a run with a perfect relay throw.

Phillies right-hander Vince Velasquez allowed two runs and four hits in five innings in his first start this season. Seranthony Dominguez (1-0) tossed a perfect sixth.

Mariners 13, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Edwin Encarnacion homered twice during an eight-run sixth inning, two of five homers for hot-hitting Seattle against Kansas City.

Daniel Vogelbach, Jay Bruce and Dylan Moore also connected for the Mariners. They have scored five or more runs in 11 of their first 12 games and have 32 homers in that span, the most by one team a dozen games into a season.

Encarnacion became the first Mariners player to go deep twice in an inning since Bret Boone and Mike Cameron both did it May 2, 2002, against the White Sox. Cameron tied a major league record with four homers in that game. The last player with a multihomer inning was Mark Trumbo of the Angels on April 15, 2016, at Texas.

Cardinals 4, Dodgers 3

In St. Louis, Marcell Ozuna homered to back a solid start by Miles Mikolas, and St. Louis ended Los Angeles' five-game winning streak.

Mikolas (1-1) allowed three runs on five hits in six innings, working around three hit batters in the first five innings. He had never hit more than one batter in a game.

For the Dodgers, the loss could be painful because of another groin injury to starting pitcher Hyun-Jin Ryu, who left with two outs in the second inning.

St. Louis rallied with two runs in the seventh. Jose Martinez singled off Joe Kelly (1-2) to drive in Matt Carpenter, who had singled off Scott Alexander. Paul Goldschmidt later scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch by Kelly.

Padres 6, Giants 5

In San Francisco, pinch-hitter Franmil Reyes connected for a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning, and San Diego rallied from five down against Madison Bumgarner to beat San Francisco.

Fernando Tatis Jr. also hit a two-run homer and Wil Myers had a solo shot for the Padres.

Kevin Pillar hit his first career grand slam but Bumgarner and the Giants' bullpen couldn't hold a 5-0 lead.

San Francisco's Gerardo Parra went down in the seventh after being hit in the face by a 93 mph fastball from Brad Wieck. Parra was eventually able to walk off holding a towel to his face.

Braves 8, Rockies 6

In Denver, Ronald Acuna Jr. homered, Dansby Swanson drove in three runs and Atlanta held off Colorado for its first road win of the season.

Nick Markakis added three hits and two RBIs for the Braves, swept in their season-opening trip to Philadelphia.

Julio Teheran (1-1) allowed six runs and five hits—all in the fifth inning—but benefited from a Braves bullpen that delivered four scoreless frames.

Rays 5, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Blake Snell (2-1) struck out 11 over six innings, giving up one run and six hits as Tampa Bay improved to 8-3 and kept pace with its best start since 2010.

Avisail Garcia had two hits, including an RBI single in the second that made it 4-0. He also struck out three times against his former team. Tommy Pham scored two runs and extended his club-record on-base streak to 43 games.

Trump administration cancels MLB's deal with Cuba

The Trump administration canceled a deal between Major League Baseball and the Cuban Baseball Federation that would have made it easier for Cuban players to come play in the United States, an administration official said.

The official, who requested anonymity, said the move would make it more difficult for Cuban players to sign with MLB, though the immediate details of its impact were unclear.

In December, MLB and the players association reached an agreement with Cuba's baseball federation to allow players from the island to be scouted and signed by the league without having to defect. The agreement was based on a decision from the Obama administration that allowed the Cuban baseball federation to be considered separate from the Cuban government.

Under the agreement, the players could receive 100 percent of a signing bonus, but the signing team would pay a posting fee to the Cuban federation. This would have been similar to the system that is currently in place for players coming to MLB from Japan.

The Trump administration argues that the country's baseball federation is actually part of the Cuban government, making the business illegal under current law.

Critics of the agreement, notably Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, feel that the posting fee going to the federation amounts to paying the Cuban government ransom for baseball players.

"The U.S. does not support actions that would institutionalize a system by which a Cuban government entity garnishes the wages of hard-working athletes who simply seek to live and compete in a free society," said Garrett Marquis, a National Security Council spokesman.

Marquis said the administration will work with MLB "to identify ways for Cuban players to have the individual freedom to benefit from their talents, and not as property of the Cuban State."

For decades, Cuban players have risked their lives escaping from their homeland to destinations like Mexico, Haiti or the Dominican Republic, where they could establish residency.

"We stand by the goal of the agreement, which is to end the human trafficking of baseball players from Cuba," MLB said in a statement Monday.

In a tweet retweeted by the Cuban Embassy, the baseball federation said that "attacks with political motivation against the agreement harm the athletes, their families and the fans."

Earlier in April, the Cuban federation announced the first list of 34 players who would be authorized to sign with MLB clubs.

Emon Lodge caging: Final Four cast complete

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Pacific Islands Club, MJD Corporation, Islander Rent-A-Car, and Pacific Engineering Groups & Services advanced to the semifinals of the 2018 Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood/IT&E Basketball League.

PIC (8-1) finished on top of the team standings and will square off against No. 4 Islander (6-3) in a make-or-break game this Saturday at 10am at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

"The key to our success this season is teamwork and trusting each individual on the team," PIC's Paulo Rafols said. "We are working hard to cover some gaps [in our game], and I'm confident that me and my teammates will make it all the way."

No. 2 MJD (7-2) will battle PEGS in the other do-or-die tiff at 12pm. PEGS matched the Islander's record, but dropped to No. 4 after losing the tiebreak (points). MJD is favored in the semis game and one of its key players, Jack Aranda, hopes the team makes it all the way to the finale.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

MJD Corporation's Mico Usi banks a shot in during a regular season game against Pacific Postal Plus in the Emon Lodge caging at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

"What helps my team is communication and dedication from each player showing up to each and every match and executing the game plan," Aranda said.

"Some days may be rough, but working together helps us get the job done on both offense and defense," he added.

The winners in this Saturday's semis games will be back at the Koblerville Gymnasium the next day for the championship bout at 1pm and to complete the season, which was long delayed because of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Both Rafols and Aranda expressed gratitude to the league organizers for deciding to continue the league despite the devastation that Yutu left on the islands.

"It feels great to know that the league pulled through," Rafols said.

"I'm more than happy with what the league has done for the community. It has brought some light to our lives," Aranda said. "Continuing the league is just right for all the participants."

BEARS

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the fifth. Liu ended up recording a hat trick, as he lit up the board in the 30th and 78th minute.

Stella McCallion and Marinel Falalimpa scored the two goals for the CNMI WNT in the second half.

DIVISION A
NMI U18 22, Matansa 0

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team was all fired up in the final match last weekend after hammering Matansa.

After a 9-0 lead in the first half, the NMI U18 went for the kill in the second to pin down the winless Matansa and extend its streak to five.

Sunjoon Tenorio led the NMI U18 with his seven goals, while his six other teammates also scored multiple goals.

Old B Bank 5, KFAS 2

The Old B Bank gained win No. 2 after outclassing Korean Football Association on Saipan.

Hwapyong Kim towed the Old B Bank to the victory after firing three goals. He broke the ice in the 16th minute and delivered his last two goals in the 67th and 71st. Kosuke Matsumoto contributed two goals, while Naoki Oura added one off a penalty kick. Junsik Kim hit the pair of goals for KFAS, which has yet to win this season.

Spring Men's M-League Standings
(As of April 8, 2019)

DIVISION A

Teams	MP	W	D	L	PTS	GF	GA	GD
NMI U18	5	5	0	0	15	22	2	20
Paire	4	4	0	0	12	15	1	14
TanHoldings	5	3	0	2	9	17	8	9
Kanoa	5	2	1	2	7	17	19	-2
Old B Bank	5	2	0	3	6	9	12	-3
KFAS	5	0	1	4	1	8	27	-19
Matansa	5	0	0	5	0	5	24	-19

DIVISION B

Shirley's	6	5	0	1	15	26	14	12
Sun Palace	6	4	0	2	12	20	20	0
PIC	6	3	0	3	9	21	21	0
WNT	6	0	0	6	0	10	22	-12

CLOCK

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monwealth is moving forward with the hosting or a new bidding should be opened.

"I wish to personally thank Gov. Torres for meeting with the PGC and listening to our proposals to keep the 2021 Pacific Mini Games on Saipan where they rightfully belong," Lakhan said.

"The PGC is more than prepared to make compromise to our program to significantly reduce costs and alleviate the financial pressures on the administration as recognition of the need to consider the devastating impact of Super Typhoon Yutu," the PGC president added.

Minogue declined to name the six sports they proposed, but said that the Games operations will be consolidated within the Oleai Sports Complex and Marianas High School to minimize logistics and financial requirements. He also said that they suggested revenue initiatives that will help cover the costs of the Games and lessen the financial obligations of the CNMI government, which last month withdrew its commitment to Saipan's hosting of the quadrennial event to focus its resources on the continued recovery efforts from the Category 5 storm.

From the around $3-million budget suggested by PGC, part of it will come from fees from the participating countries, which will pay $450 per delegate to the host. Others could be from sponsorships from the private sector. Minogue declined to elaborate on other revenue measures they suggested.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, center, poses for a photo with Pacific Games Council and Northern Marianas Sports Association officials after their meeting regarding Saipan's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games yesterday at the Governor's Office in Capital Hill.

Better shape

While PGC deeply understands that the CNMI's focus is on the continued recovery on Saipan and Tinian, Minogue said the islands should not be discouraged from hosting the Games.

"Don't be too despondent. We are prepared to reduce our 'standards' to make the Games affordable," Minogue said.

Torres, in its letter to PGC about the CNMI pulling the plug on Saipan's hosting of the Mini Games, said "After conducting a preliminary assessment of our islands' recreational and athletic facilities, as well as having conversations with you, the NMSA, and community sports leaders, we do not reasonably believe that we can host the 2021 Pacific Mini Games to the standards mandated by the Pacific Games Council."

Majority of the facilities on Saipan sustained massive damage from Yutu, but Minogue said that they are in better shape than the venues in Vanuatu, which also suffered destructions from a strong storm two years before it hosted the 2017 Mini Games.

"At least half of the sports could be held now if they had to be and so we believe that these Games remain affordable and capable of being successfully delivered in the CNMI. I invite the governor to take this opportunity to remain in partnership with PGC and NMSA," said Lakhan, as he seconded Minogue's observations.

Under advisement

Press secretary Kevin Bautista acknowledged receipt of the PGC proposals and said the CNMI government will carefully review them.

"Gov. Torres and Lt. Gov. Palacios had productive meetings over the last two days with the Pacific Games Council and NMSA to discuss the feasibility of the CNMI's ability to host the Games. We're taking their proposal under advisement and will discuss further in order to come up with a final decision," Bautista said.

"The PGC was receptive to our current challenges, and we look to come to a resolution within the month. Right now, our priority will be on taking care of our most vulnerable residents in the tents, our students in the temporary classrooms, and our businesses facing the economic hardships following Super Typhoon Yutu," he added.

FALCONS

From Page 28

saved the Falcons from absorbing back-to-back losses in the opening week of the SLLB. Last Saturday, defending champions Kagman Little Legals downed the Falcons, 7-3, in the early rematch between the 2018 season finalists.

The Comets threatened to hand the Falcons another loss, as the former took a 2-0 lead after three and a half innings. Catcher Jesus Tyquiengco blasted an RBI single and later reached off the Falcons' error at third base at the top of the second inning to put the Comets in the driver's seat.

However, the Comets' stay on top was short-lived, as the Falcons grabbed the lead in the next inning, 4-2. Tomokane singled in leadoff batter Achilles Evangelista and the latter also reached off the Comets' miscue, while Marvin Cabrera brought in Andre Iguel and scored the Falcons fourth run off another error from their opponents.

The Falcons went on to keep the lead in fifth inning, as neither team managed to score. Then at the top of the last inning, leadoff batter Greg Tebit reached off a wild pitch, while Sam Aldan's single brought home Tyquiengco, allowing the Comets to tie the match.

After Tyquiengco's run knotted the count, the Comets had chances to regain the upper hand with runners on second and third base. However, Andre Iguel, who relieved starting pitcher Noah Iguel, struck out Benji Manglona to end the top of the sixth inning.

Then at the bottom, Noah Iguel led off for the Falcons, but was grounded out at first, while Tomokane was hit by pitch and later moved to second after Cabrera walked. Next up to bat was Delton Lieto and a Comets' error at first base gave Tomokane time to run home for the Falcons' close win.

MINOR DIVISION
NSA Braves 15, Blue Jays 1

The NSA Braves had a rousing season debut after whipping the Blue Jays last Sunday.

The Braves saved the best for last after scoring eight runs at the bottom of the fourth inning.

Rosie Saralu led the Braves' rout of the Blue Jays after scoring two runs, including a solo homer in the third inning, and going 2-for-3 at bat. Abraham Saralu, Max Taitano, Akiken Norita, and Beni Sablan also delivered two runs apiece for the Braves, while the Blue Jays' lone run came from leadoff batter Ethan Salalila (unearned) at the bottom of the first inning.

Rosie Saralu pitched for the Braves and threw a no-hitter in three innings, walking only one and striking out seven. Alden Magofna relieved her in the fourth and the former finished off the Blue Jays, as he fanned the Blue Jays' first two batters and then struck out the fourth one to leave Nick Sablan stranded at third.

Virginia escapes past Texas Tech in OT

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cubs rout Pirates in opener after Lester departs

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DECISION TIME ON 2021 MINI GAMES HOSTING

Clock ticking for CNMI

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI has only one month to decide whether to host the 2021 Pacific Mini Games or not.

Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan and chief executive officer Andrew Minogue met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios last Monday and yesterday to present and discuss proposals that aim to keep the Mini Games on Saipan. Under the PGC recommendations, the Games will be scaled down from 12 events to six and the budget will be decreased from $8 million to around $3 million.

The CNMI government through Northern Marianas Sports Association then has to get back to PGC next month and make a final decision about Saipan's hosting of the Games. The clock is ticking for the CNMI, as the PGC will hold a general assembly in Samoa in July and announce whether the Com-

See CLOCK on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Pacific Games Council chief executive officer Andrew Minogue gestures, while PGC president Vidhya Lakhan, Northern Marianas Sports Association acting president Justin Andrew, and NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi listen during a press conference on the status of Saipan's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games yesterday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Falcons quickly recover, edge Comets

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Talaabwogh Falcons regrouped right away and nosed out the Comets, 5-4, in their Majors division game in the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

A four-run bottom of the fourth inning and a go-ahead run from Matthew Tomokane

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Talaabwogh Falcons' Achilles Evangelista waits for a pitch from the Kagman Little Legals during their first game in the Majors division of the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Shirley's gains cushion; NMI U18 unbeaten

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A pair of wins in Week 6 of the 2019 Spring Men's M-League gave Shirley's Football Club some breathing space in Division B.

Shirley's first defeated the CNMI Women's National Team, 4-2, last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville, and then downed Pacific Islands Club last Sunday, 5-3, to gain five victories, two more than PIC and ahead by one against Sun Palace. Before last week's matches, Shirley, PIC, and Sun Palace had three wins each.

Hojin Woo and Hoin Ryu handed Shirley's victory No. 4 after drilling two goals apiece in their triumph over the NMI WNT. Gillian Villagomez and Britany Wally scored the two goals for the NMI WNT in the first half to tie the game before Ryu's shot in the 49th minute broke the deadlock and Woo's conversion in the 74th gave Shirley's the insurance. Woo and Ryu's early goals were recorded in the 17th and 37th minute, respectively, while Villagomez drew first blood in the match in the 12th, and Wally hit the equalizer in the 39th.

Woo also drilled a pair in Shirley's come-from-behind win over PIC, which was ahead at halftime, 2-0, before collapsing in the second.

Brandon Tenorio's goals in the third and 35th minute handed PIC the advantage and they even took a 3-0 lead when John Kai Colisao hit the board in the 46th minute. However, that was it for PIC, as it was all Shirley's show after that.

Jedidah Peteru started Shirley's rally with his goal in the 47th minute, while Woo scored in the 52nd and 67th, and Heng Guo Piao, and Jack Phan delivered in the 53rd and 89th minute, respectively.

Sun Palace 5, NMI WNT 2

Sun Palace moved up to second place in the team standings after beating the CNMI WNT in the other Division B match last Sunday.

Sun Palace toyed around with the defense of the NMI WNT early, as it got three goals in a span of seven minutes. Won Jong Seo notched a pair in the second and seventh minute, while Jun Liu earned his first in

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 27

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sunjoon Tenorio, left, seen here in action against an Old B Bank player, scored seven goals to power the NMI Boys U18 National Team to a lopsided win over Matansa in Division A of the 2019 Spring Men's M-League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.